$1,000 PRIZE STORY. "THE GLEN ECHO MYSTERY."

The Black Cat

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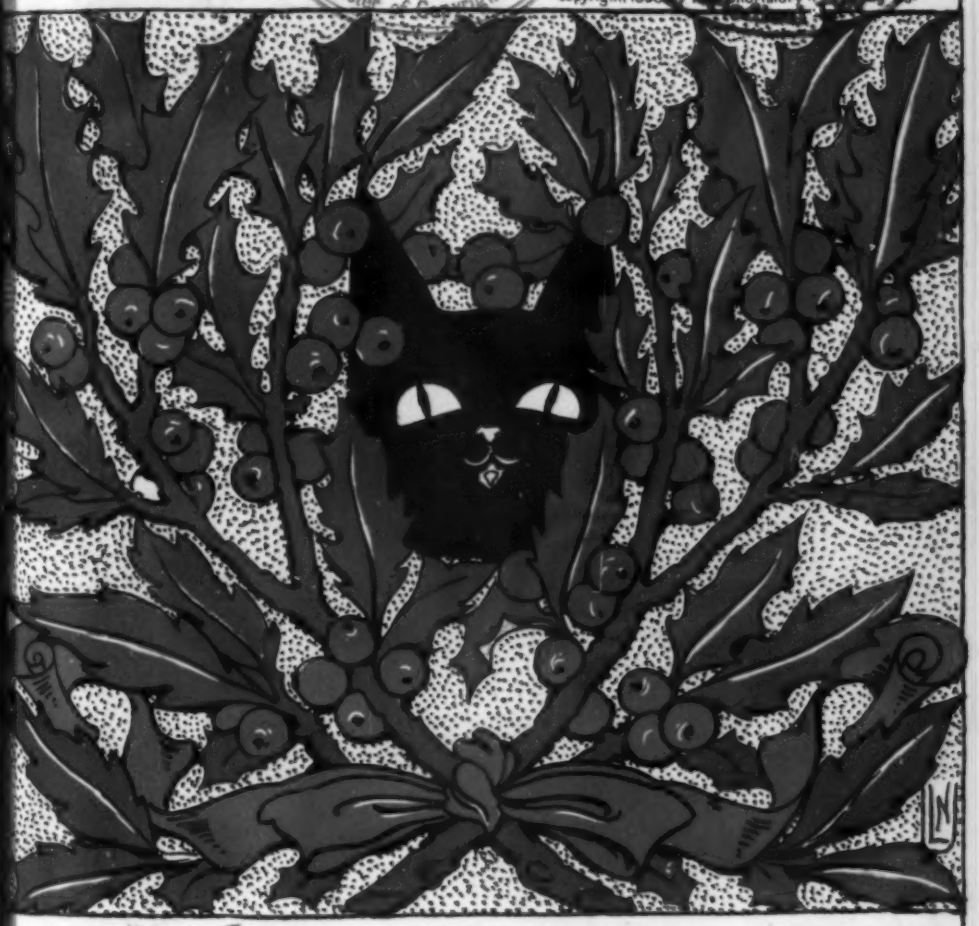

December, 1898.

The Glen Echo Mystery.
$1,000 Prize Story. By Walter Wellman.

Bumblepuppy on the Range. Edward Boltwood.

The Man from Alaska. Louis Weslyn Jones.

Two Christmas Eves. Wilson S. Henry.

The Transformation of Mrs. Dwight's Son-in-Law. Louise S. Todd.

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The Glen Echo Mystery.*

BY WALTER WELLMAN.

IX months ago, through the death of a kinsman in Chicago, a lot of old pictures, furniture, bric-a-brac and papers came into my possession. Most of these things were stored away in the garret of my house. One day, having occasion to go to the storeroom, my attention was attracted to an old-fashioned, battered leather trunk. I had often thought of satisfying my curiosity as to its contents, but had never been able to find a key that would fit the lock. This day, however, it occurred to me that the ancient leather contrivance was of no value, and that a knife would do quite as well as a key; so I whipped out my pocket-knife and ripped a long slit in the leather top.

Within I found a large number of packets of old letters, account books and diaries, and all sorts of manuscripts and pamphlets. All these I tumbled out upon the floor, and looked through them in an idle way. At first I found nothing of unusual interest;

* This is one of two stories that won the $1,000 prize in THE BLACK CAT prize-story competition ending March 31, 1898.

but soon I came upon a packet of peculiar shape. It was apparently a sort of home-made envelope, composed of two pieces of old-fashioned blue linen paper folded and glued together. Upon the face of the packet was inscribed these words: —

Strictly Private

Never to be opened by anyone but me.

Henry Stone.

This was the signature of my dead kinsman, and I suppose I should have respected his injunction; but I did not. My curiosity was stronger than my reverence for the dead, so I slit open the packet.

Now I wish I had not done so. By prying into the secrets of the past, accidentally placed within my keeping, I have come face to face with a mystery which appalls me. For days and days and nights and nights I have turned it over in my mind, have looked at it from every point of view, have analyzed, searched, thought, imagined. But it has been all in vain. I am completely baffled. So are my friends to whom I have submitted the matter. Our combined ingenuity fails to afford a solution.

What I found within the packet of old blue linen paper was simply the following three cuttings from newspapers of long ago: —

MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE AT GLEN ECHO.

POUGHKEEPSIE, Oct. 20. — The police officials here and detectives from New York are unable to throw any light upon the mysterious disappearance of Sylvester Baldwin from the house of our esteemed fellow townsman, Prof. Edwin Stone, who lives in the old Stone manor house at Glen Echo, one of the picturesque suburbs of this city. Mr. Baldwin strangely disappeared last Sunday night, and though diligent search has been made for him during the forty-eight hours that have elapsed, not a single clue has been obtained.

Mr. Baldwin's home is in Boston. He came here about two weeks ago to visit Professor Stone, who was his classmate at Harvard. A house party

was given in his honor, and among the guests were Mr. and Mrs. George Jones, of Albany, Miss Irene Davidge, of New York, and Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, of Yonkers. Mr. Baldwin was about twenty five years of age, and a rising young lawyer of Boston. He was unmarried, but it is whispered that he had become engaged since his arrival here.

Mr. Baldwin was in fine health and spirits. Almost every day the guests had indulged in picnics, boating excursions, fishing, horseback riding and other amusements. Mr. Baldwin was the life of the party with his vivacity, wit and love of fun. On many of these excursions it was im possible for Professor Stone to go, as it is well known that in his laboratory, located on the roof of the manor house, he is carrying on some very important experiments. When he felt compelled to remain in his workshop, Professor Stone designated Mr. Baldwin to act as his representative in the entertainment of the party.

Sunday last the ladies and gentlemen, accompanied by Professor Stone's aged mother, with whom he lives, attended divine services in the morning, and spent the afternoon in walks and drives. Toward evening, the weather growing colder, they all assembled in the big dining hall, where they made a rousing log fire in the old-fashioned fireplace. They had refreshments and music, and Mr. Baldwin's fine baritone voice was never heard to better advantage. About ten o'clock, after planning their excursion for the next day, all retired to their rooms on the second floor.

Mr. Baldwin was heard by Mr. and Mrs. Jones and by Miss Davidge, who occupied adjoining rooms, to enter his chamber a few moments after they had reached their own apartments. He was whistling softly or humming an air, indicating the happy condition of his mind. He was also heard closing a window, and closing and latching the outside blinds. Between the apartment of Mr. Baldwin and that occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Jones there is a door, somewhat warped by time, and through the cracks and the big old-fashioned keyhole Mr. Jones heard Mr. Baldwin bounce into bed; but as the light in his room was not extinguished, as Mr. Jones noticed when he put out his own light and retired, the supposition is that Mr. Baldwin was reading in bed before going to sleep, as was his habit.

From that moment not the slightest trace of the young lawyer has been secured. The last known of him, he was apparently lying in bed, reading, a happy man. Next morning he was not in his room. All his clothing and effects, save only the pajamas which he wore as a night robe, were in the apartment. He had disappeared as completely as if the earth had swallowed him up.

It is inconceivable that Mr. Baldwin suffered an attack of mental aberration and wandered away, for there had been a light fall of snow that evening and no tracks were found in it around the house. The barn and outbuildings, as well as every nook and cranny of the manor house, were carefully searched. The police looked into the haymows, and even lowered a man into the wells. They scoured the country around, but no one had seen or heard of a man wandering about in his pajamas. If Mr. Baldwin left the house, he went away without shoes, hat or clothing; and as cold weather has prevailed since his disappearance, it is almost inconceivable that he has not been forced to apply for shelter or food during the last forty-eight hours.

The detectives do not believe that Mr. Baldwin left the house. The morning after his disappearance the window blinds in his room were all found fastened on the inside. So, too, were the front door and the rear or kitchen door and side door of the house. All were locked, with the keys in place inside. The detectives have satisfied themselves that the fall of snow Sunday evening ceased about nine o'clock, and it would have been impossible for Mr. Baldwin to wander away, or be carried away, without leaving traces of footsteps.

But neither Mr. Baldwin living nor Mr. Baldwin dead is to be found in the house now. The search has been thorough from cellar to garret. Professor Stone's laboratory upon the roof has been thoroughly ransacked. As is known to our citizens, Professor Stone is engaged in investigations looking toward a new illuminating process and also in the water-proofing of fabrics. For these purposes he keeps upon the roof quite a collection of apparatus, retorts, gas generators, a large lot of fabric, some of which has been chemically treated, tools, fine instruments, etc. Professor Stone says he was in his laboratory hard at work the night his friend disappeared. No other member of the family or any of the guests heard Mr. Baldwin's steps that fateful night. Professor Stone insisted that the detectives should thoroughly search his laboratory. The officers opened the gas machines, sifted the cinders in all the retorts and overhauled all the piles of fabric. They found not the slightest trace of the missing man, dead or alive.

Professor Stone and all the members of his house party, so merry a few days ago, are bowed down with grief. They not only fear that Mr. Baldwin is dead, but they are overwhelmed by the mystery which surrounds them. They feel that they are living within the shadow of a tragedy which has not been explained and which thus far is wholly inexplicable.

MYSTERY PILED ON MYSTERY.

POUGHKEEPSIE, Oct. 22. — The mystery of the disappearance of Sylvester Baldwin is not yet cleared up. In fact, it grows deeper and darker. This morning a telegram was received from Saratoga. It read as follows: —

CHIEF OF POLICE, POUGHKEEPSIE: Body of man in night-clothes found last Monday morning at daylight by mail carrier on bridle-path in the Adirondacks about one hundred miles from here. What was date of your man's disappearance?

CITY MARSHAL.

To this Chief of Police Kipley replied, giving the date of Mr. Baldwin's disappearance, and adding: "Impossible same man."

Of course it is impossible, and yet it is a most strange and striking coincidence. Have two men disappeared in their pajamas during

the past week? This most extraordinary development did not impress Chief Kipley as having any bearing upon the Baldwin case. When asked if there could possibly be any connection between the two incidents he replied: —

"It is absurd to think there was. Mr. Baldwin disappeared after ten o'clock Sunday night. Early next morning the body of a man was found in the Adirondacks, two hundred miles from here. There is no railway nearer than Saratoga. It is a journey of about two days from the place where the body was found to the nearest railway station, and that is by mounted courier. A wagon would need four days over those rough roads. It was a physical impossibility for the body of Mr. Baldwin to be carried to that remote point in the Adirondacks by next morning, and, therefore, we do not need to discuss this phase of the case any farther. The body found in the mountains is that of some other man."

Chief Kipley is undoubtedly right. Your reporter has ascertained that the only train for the north after Mr. Baldwin retired to his room was the midnight express, which does not make connections at Albany for Saratoga. The earliest possible arrival at Saratoga would have been at ten o'clock Monday morning, and that is still one hundred miles by a rough mountain road from the place where the body was found, according to the telegram, at daylight Monday morning.

Notwithstanding the utter impossibility of there being any connection between the two incidents, Miss Davidge, who has taken much to heart the strange fate of Mr. Baldwin, has insisted that careful investigation be made of the Adirondack case. In this she is supported by Professor Stone, and by others at the Glen Echo house. Their anxiety is so great that they grasp at straws. Chief Kipley, to humor their strange whim, has agreed to send a man to the mountains to inquire carefully into the finding of the body there, though protesting that it is useless expense and trouble.

Chief Kipley is still convinced, as are all the detectives who have worked on the case, that Mr. Baldwin, living or dead, is still in the manor house. He has expressed his belief to Professor Stone, and the latter has insisted upon a more thorough search. In consequence, the old house has been nearly pulled to pieces. Partitions have been cut down, floors ripped out, walls opened, the floor of the cellar dug up, and the ashes and cinders in every furnace and stove, including the retorts in Professor Stone's laboratory, have been subjected to chemical analysis by Professors Tausig and Bruinier, of the Polytechnic School. The barns and outbuildings, strawstacks and wells, have all been researched. Every scrap of paper in Mr. Baldwin's rooms has been scrutinized. All the inmates of the house have been subjected to another examination, but without disclosing any new facts. Not a single trace of Mr. Baldwin or of the manner in which he left or was taken from his room, not even a shadow of a clue, has been discovered.

MR. BALDWIN'S BODY FOUND.

AN ASTOUNDING CASE.

SARATOGA, Oct. 26.— The body found in the Adirondacks a week ago this morning was that of Sylvester Baldwin, after all. It has been positively identified by Professor Stone, Mr. and Mrs. Jones and Miss Irene Davidge, who came here to view it, accompanied by your reporter. But instead of clearing up the mystery, this discovery has darkened it into one of the most inexplicable crimes of the century.

All we know now is that Mr. Baldwin is dead; that he disappeared from his room in the manor house at Glen Echo after ten o'clock Sunday night, the 8th in-t.; that his body was found at daylight next morning two hundred miles away, a hundred miles from the nearest railway; and that he must have been foully murdered.

Detective Brown, who was sent by Chief Kipley to investigate the Adirondack case, reached Saratoga last Friday morning, and by hard riding over the mountain roads arrived at Cascadeville Saturday evening. There he found the body, which had been brought in from a point eight miles north. Mr. Brown closely questioned the mail carrier who had found the body about six o'clock Monday morning, on his way from Lake Placid. There was no doubt as to the day and hour, as these were attested by the mail carrier, Daniel Givins, and by the authorities at Cascadeville, who had sent after the remains, and also despatched a courier to Westport with a telegram to the City Marshal of Saratoga.

When Givins came upon the body it was lying in the road. His horse was frightened by it. The remains lay in a sort of heap, and were not yet quite cold.

The skull was smashed, the neck broken, and the head driven in toward the shoulders. Many bones in the body and limbs were broken, indicating that the remains may have been tightly packed in a box or crammed into a cask. The only clothing upon the corpse was a suit of silken pajamas, tied around the waist with a cord of the same material.

The deceased had never been seen in that region, nor was any one known to be missing. The population is sparse, and every tourist and sportsman is known along the trails to the guides, boatmen and innkeepers. No man could carry a human body to that remote spot save upon the back of a horse, and no mysterious horseman or other person was reported from any part of the district. The manner in which the body had made its appearance in the midst of the mountains was as much of a mystery to the people there as the means by which it had been removed from Poughkeepsie was to Detective Brown.

Detective Brown had known Mr. Baldwin, and as soon as he saw the body he was convinced of its identity. Accordingly he sent a courier with a telegram to Chief Kipley, and hired two men and two horses to help him carry the remains to Saratoga. They arrived here at three o'clock this afternoon, and there was a sad scene when our party from Poughkeepsie were admitted to the undertaker's rooms to view the body. Every one at once recognized in the broken and mangled mass of flesh handsome, manly Sylvester Baldwin. Professor Stone was greatly agitated when he beheld the features of his college chum and best friend, and Miss Davidge uttered a cry of pain and would have swooned had not Mrs. Jones led her away.

The face of the deceased is natural. In one of the front teeth is a gold filling just such as Mr. Baldwin had in one of his front teeth. The silken pajamas are precisely like Mr. Baldwin's, and, moreover, his initials "S. B." are embroidered upon a little linen tag under the neck. The name of the maker, a Boston firm, is there, too. Still stronger proof of the identity of the remains, if any were needed, is found in the fact that in a pocket of the pajamas was discovered a locket containing a miniature of Miss Irene Davidge.

There is, therefore, not the slightest doubt whatever that this is the body of Sylvester Baldwin. There can be no doubt, either, that he was murdered. But how and by whom? And above all, how was his body carried, in six or seven hours, some two hundred miles from his room in the manor house at Glen Echo to that lonely spot in the mountains, to reach which a journey of two days and nights is required, even under the most favorable circumstances?

It cannot be possible that the body which we have here is that of another man. It is beyond reason to suppose that there was a simultaneous disappearance of two men, both wearing silken pajamas exactly alike, the two men resembling one another in figure, face, color of eyes and hair, teeth and everything as closely as if they were twins, both bearing the initials "S. B." and both carrying in their pockets a miniature of Miss Irene Davidge, of New York

Every one is greatly depressed, not only on account of Mr. Baldwin's sad fate, but by the inexplicable mystery surrounding the dreadful tragedy. The police and the detectives are without even a theory. The doctors and professors who have carefully examined the body and subjected parts of its raiment to microscopic tests are without any explanation, however shadowy and unsatisfactory. Have the Black Arts been revived, or must we ascribe this most extraordinary tragedy to the working of some modern miracle?

This is the strange story my curiosity had unearthed from the recesses of my dead kinsman's trunk. You will now see why I am sorry I disobeyed the injunction which I found written upon the blue packet. The tale which these old newspaper clippings tell has rung in my ears and whirled about in my brain, robbing me of sleep and making me nervous and restless. I have searched the old trunk again and again for further light upon it, but without success. I have had a feeling that somehow or other I must discover the dread secret, for this tragedy was in my family. Not only did it occur, or at least have its beginning, in the house of one of my kinsmen, but, now that the circumstances have been brought so strikingly to my attention, I recall that my relation, Professor Stone, married the Miss Davidge who figures in the story, lived with her in happiness for many years, and reared a fine family of boys and girls. Though I had never known either Professor Stone or his wife, Mr. Henry Stone, their brother, who left to my charge the fateful trunk, has told me of the professor's successful and useful career and happy home life.

But all my efforts have been unavailing. I am unable to find a clue or even to evolve a satisfactory theory. I can only give my readers the facts and leave them to struggle with the problem, as I have struggled.

. . . . . .

POSTSCRIPT. — The foregoing was written some months ago. Meanwhile I have made strenuous efforts to throw off the strange fascination which this mystery has exerted upon me — to stop thinking and worrying about it; but to no purpose. It has continued to harass me. To-day, feeling more desperate than usual, I went up to the garret with a hatchet and a big knife, determined to cut the old trunk to pieces in order to discover if its shell contained any clue to the mystery. Underneath the lining in the bottom I found a letter apparently no more than five or six years old, which read as follows: —

SAN FRANCISCO, June 20, 1892.

My dear Brother Henry: — I am writing this letter to you with my own hand, despite my physical weakness. It is the last letter I shall ever write to you, for I know my end is fast approach-

ing. The doctor tells me I shall recover, but he cannot deceive me.

I have, as you know, led a busy, a useful, a successful life. My inventions have brought me distinction and reward. There is only one thing in my career which I regret, and even that does not fill me with much remorse. Once there came to me a moment in which all that life seemed to promise me — all happiness, success, and ambition — were involved in a struggle for mastery between two men — myself and another.

It is the law of nature that when two forces come in collision the weaker must give way. Nature has thus established the principle of the survival of the fittest, the dominance of the superior over the inferior. It matters not whether the struggle comes between planets or molecules, men or animals, nations or tribes, the law is the same. No man can be above the law of his being and his surroundings; it is his right and duty to work out his salvation within the sphere and under the principles which nature has ordained.

And yet in my case that which I had to do was extremely disagreeable. I had to remove a man from my pathway. One or the other had to suffer a most grievous loss, a fatal disappointment; and when this clash of interests came I had the right, under nature's laws, to defend myself. The man whose life crossed mine, and whom it was necessary for me to remove, was my best friend, and, for the moment, my guest. These circumstances added to the unpleasantness of my task, but did not deprive me of my right of self-preservation — a right which exists in every living thing, from the humblest to the highest, and whose exercise nature restricts only with limitations of power.

You may wonder, brother, why I write these words. I write them because it is not in my nature to die with my secret untold. All these years I have carried it alone, absolutely alone. An impulse which I can neither describe nor control leads me to share my secret with just one human soul; and of course he can be none but you, my dearest friend and brother, who has shared all his secrets with me.

You will recall all the circumstances of the tragedy which happened at our house in Glen Echo shortly after I left college and while you were in Europe. We have often talked them over in the past, and you, like every one else, tried to solve the mystery. If you had only known what I knew!

I loved Irene Davidge before Sylvester Baldwin did. Before he and she met at our house I was passionately devoted to her. I made up the house party for the purpose of providing a good opportunity to press my suit, which I knew was not unpleasing. Before she returned home I had confidently expected she would be my promised wife. But from the first day she met Baldwin I knew my star was setting and his was in the ascendant. He was rapid and prosperous in his love-making, and I was forgotten. In a week they were lovers. One day I saw him kiss her as they stood behind some rose bushes in the garden. Had I not been a philosopher, a man of cool, calm reasoning, I should have killed him there and then.

But you know my self-possession, my absolute control of self, my favorite theory that he who can master himself can master the world. All that night I reasoned it out with myself. My conclusions, which to me then, as now, appeared logical, were as follows:—

1. Without her my life is ruined, as I know myself well enough to know I shall never love again.

2. If he lives she will be his, and I, the superior man in all save those superficial qualities which attract the other sex, shall be the loser in life's battle.

3. Nature has ordained that the superior shall triumph, and therefore I have the right to remove him from my way.

4. If I do remove him, in proper fashion, she will be mine, as she would have been mine had he not come between us. Therefore his removal will give me that which I must have.

Conclusion: I will remove him.

Action being determined upon, it only remained to decide the means. It was necessary that everything should be done in a prudent and orderly way. There must be no danger of discovery or even of suspicion being fastened upon me, for of course that would defeat the purpose in view. To obviate the possibility of pain or humiliation to our dear mother, or to you, my brother, was as much my duty as to protect the mind of Miss Davidge from being poisoned against me. Therefore it was necessary to proceed only after thorough consideration of all the possibilities. A minor point, but still one worthy of attention, was that I should not be compelled to do any actual butchering with my own hands, nor have any gruesome scenes about me. Even in this supreme moment, when I was successfully to work out my destiny or

utterly ruin myself, I could not overlook the fact that I was a gentleman. Nor could I take the risk of employing a confederate.

In a few hours my plans were laid. I hope you will agree with me that they were laid with judgment, skill, and thoroughness, as became a man of science and self-possession. Fortunately I had in my laboratory all the materials needed for my operations. But there was much work to do. Day and night I toiled up there on the roof of the old house, where you and I afterward passed so many happy hours while perfecting my inventions. I absented myself as much as possible from the house party, in part because I could not endure seeing him and her together, and in part because I needed all the time for my preparations. During a period of one hundred hours I took only as much sleep as one ordinarily gets in twenty-four.

At last I was ready. I remember that it was Sunday noon, just after services, that I tested my work, reviewed all my calculations, and found that nothing had been neglected. After dinner in the evening I spent some time with the party in the dining-room, and the loving glances exchanged between Sylvester and Irene were more endurable to me than they had hitherto been. Excusing myself about nine o'clock, I went upstairs. Entering Baldwin's room, I struck a match and found the book which he was engaged in reading. It was "Horace's Odes," from my library. I knew Sylvester's habit of reading for an hour before going to sleep — he formed it in college. Opening the volume to the bookmark, I turned over six pages and inserted there this note which I had prepared: —

Dear Sylvester: — If you are not too sleepy when you find this, come up to the laboratory. I have something important to show you. E. S.

I calculated that it would take him a quarter of an hour to read from his bookmark to my note, and I felt sure he would come, as he had displayed much interest in my experiments, and had complained because of late I had admitted him so rarely to the laboratory. My only fear was that, in the time which I had given him, not all of the other people in the house would be asleep, as I naturally did not want any one to know he had visited me. At the same time I dared not place the note farther on in the book, lest he should not reach it before falling asleep himself. Of course I could have deferred the removal till another night, but now wind and weather favored, and I courted no delays.

He came a few moments before eleven o'clock. I was ready for him.

"Sylvester," said I, "here is a machine I have built for experimental purposes, and I want you to help me test it."

"All right, Edwin," he replied; "what is it now?"

"A new gas-holder, made of silk," said I; "and here is some of the new gas. Take a good whiff of it—it is like wine in the nostrils."

He took the metal flask which I handed him, turned the cock, and in a moment or two fell insensible at my feet. I had filled the flask with a combination of chloroform and hydrogen, under pressure, and when the cock was turned a cloud of most powerful anæsthetic fumes burst into his face.

Now I was master of the situation. First I locked the door leading to the floor below. I noted with satisfaction that he had brought my note with him, thus saving me a perilous trip down to his room after it. I burned it in my furnace. A look at the anemometer showed a wind movement of thirty miles an hour, and I was glad to see that the barometer was still falling. If it had been possible for a man of my temperament to have faltered in a set purpose, the sight of the locket containing Irene's portrait, which had fallen from the breast pocket of his pajamas as he fell, would have served to nerve me for my task.

With your knowledge of my thoroughgoing methods, dear brother, you will easily imagine how carefully I had planned everything. Sylvester's exact weight I had ascertained by a casual inquiry a few days before to be one hundred and fifty-three pounds. I assumed that he would come to me without stopping to dress, for he was hardy and athletic, and proud of his ability to endure exposure — an important point on account of the nicety of my calculations. The weight of the gas-bag was eighteen pounds, and of its lines and netting, five pounds; total, one hundred and seventy-six pounds. By careful test I had found the weight of my gas — it was nearly pure, dry hydrogen — was eighty thousandths of an ounce per cubic foot; and as air weighs one and two tenths ounces per foot, I had a net power of fully one and one tenth ounces per foot. The gas-bag was spherical, and a little more than eighteen feet in diameter, giving it a capacity of three thousand one hundred and fifty cubic feet, equal to two hundred and seventeen pounds lifting force.

It was necessary to have a little margin, to compensate for loss of gas by leakage. Careful calculations of the rarity of the

atmosphere at various altitudes showed me the bag with the burden would at first ascend to a height of about five thousand six hundred feet, where there would be an exact counterbalance of the weight of air displaced and the weight of the apparatus and its burden. Then it would slowly descend as the gas escaped from the bag. It was, of course, desirable that it should at first ascend to a great altitude, as that would prevent its being seen by any one who might be astir. It was quite as desirable that the whole machine should remain in the air at least six hours, that it might be carried a proper distance away. At the same time, it must drop its burden before daylight — before any one could see it and perchance understand its dread significance.

It was highly important, too, from my view-point, that the body should be found sooner or later, and be unmistakably identified; otherwise Irene might take it into her pretty head to do the romantic by waiting year after year for the possible reappearance in life of her absent lover, which would be decidedly unpleasant for me. Hence I did not dare to arrange to send the apparatus out to sea, as I might easily have done. For the same reason I replaced in the pocket of Sylvester's pajamas the locket with Irene's miniature in it which had fallen from it.

It was absolutely necessary that the apparatus and its burden should not be found together, for in that case it would be easy to trace the two to a common source, — to wit, my laboratory, — thus defeating the purpose in view. To obviate this danger I had made careful experiments in the effect of various acids upon fibers, and was able accurately to determine the time in which a given quantity of diluted vitriolic acid would eat away a cord of given strength so that it would part under the strain of a weight of one hundred and fifty-six pounds. By this means I made sure that the apparatus and its burden should be separated before daylight, the latter to fall to earth, and the former, relieved of its incubus, to ascend to the skies and fly perhaps a thousand miles before coming down.

Such a cord, twisted with acid and timed to sustain the load just six hours, I tied about the waist of Sylvester and made fast to the netting underneath the gas-bag.

The moment had come. Carefully I looked all about from the roof to see that no one was watching my operations, and noted with satisfaction that the night was extremely dark and in all respects favorable to my purpose.

At quarter past eleven o'clock, Sunday evening, October 18, I took Sylvester's living right hand in mine and pressed it with a farewell greeting. Then with three rapid slashes of my knife I cut the guy-ropes and my little balloon, with the body of my rival dangling beneath it, darted upward and northward into the gale.

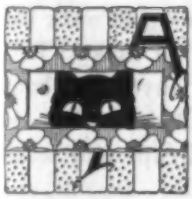
Your affectionate brother,

EDWIN STONE.

Such was the secret of Sylvester Baldwin's death. Was it to be expected that anything less than the diabolical craft and ingenuity that brought it to pass should penetrate its mystery?

Bumblepuppy on the Range.

BY EDWARD BOLTWOOD.



A FEELING of desperation pervaded the home ranch of the Three X outfit in South Dakota. Although it was the time of the gathering of the hands for the beef round-up, which was regarded as a mere pleasure excursion up and down the Belle Fourche in the cool days of September, the usually festal occasion seemed to be darkened by the shadow of a great grief. The boys were depressed. They sulked at meal times. They did not tell stories at night. It wasn't because they were underpaid, although this was undoubtedly true. The reason, as Shorty Garr expressed it, was that they were "locoed by the Britisher."

Mr. Horace Peddie, Q. C., the managing director of the Scotch syndicate which owned the Three X, was making his first inspection of the property. Mr. Peddie had examined the company's lands in South Africa, and intended to make a clean job of it by looking over the American ranch also. His coming had been awaited by his hosts with much anticipatory pleasure, but his actual arrival had been followed by bewilderment and a stinging sense of defeat, and John Heffren, Shorty Garr, and the bookkeeper talked it over one evening while they smoked their pipes on the cook-house steps.

"As the old man said," remarked Mr. Heffren, "before this Peddie hit the ranch; 'Tain't no harm,' says he, 'to make him think he's struck a hot crowd. His letters is full of yarns and advice from South Africa, and I'm sick of 'em. Bring around your buckin' bronks,' says the old man, 'and pack your guns and we'll make him think this 'ere western country,' says he, 'is a darned sight wilder than any South Africa on the map. Make it warm for him,' says he, 'and he'll say we sure ought to be paid big for livin' in such a tough place.' And, I put it to you, Tompkins, ain't we done our best?"

The bookkeeper nodded.

"Best?" inquired Garr, disconsolately; "I'll bet we have. The first turn out of the box was when I caught up Hot Biscuit for this e-squire to ride down to the hay camp. Now, Biscuit ain't what you'd call *bad*, you know,—just loony. So I leads the pony around to the office, and there was Peddie dressed up in tight white pants and shiny boots, like he was going to walk the slack wire. He spots me looking at his rig, and he says: 'This is the way we ride in Pretory.' I don't know anything about Pretory, but men have been shot for less in the Bad Lands. So he gets on the horse and puts his toes in the stirrups and leans over Biscuit's neck, like he had a pain in his inside. Biscuit, she slides down a mud bank and turns head over heels, not knowin' what to make of the heft on her shoulders. 'My word!' says Peddie, wiping the gumbo out of his eyes, 'do you ride those brutes every day?' 'Sure,' I says, thinking to get a raise of pay without showing cards. 'By Jove!' he says. 'It's lucky that wasn't a South African pony. When horses over there throw a man they try to eat him up!' I went behind the corral, and I says to myself—"

"Never mind what you said," interrupted the bookkeeper judiciously. "Why didn't you make a play with a forty-five?"

"Listen to me," said Heffren. "I was lopin' down the creek with this English feller day before yesterday. I'd heard the boys claim nobody could get a start out of him, and I thinks, 'John, you are the man for this job, even if you have to make him smell powder.' We came along through Sandy Bottom, him and me, where the box elders is thick and the trail narrer. All of a sudden I begin to look fierce, and cuss, and spy into the underbrush like I see somethin' bad. Then I pulls the gun, and pumps six shells at the trees, swearin' and tearin' and leatherin' my horse. We ran our ponies up on to the rise, and then he said: 'Let's go back and skin 'em.' 'Skin who?' says I. 'Those rabbits,' said he. 'Rabbits!' says I. 'Them was the Powder River gang, and they're on the kill.' 'Well,' says he, 'let's go back and skin *them*. They do that sort of thing most every day in South Africa.' And I couldn't say a dum word."

Garr resumed the mournful tale. "We gave him a meal," said

Shorty, "over to the horse camp. Raw onions and bacon sliced lengthwise — all fat. He said that was the kind of grub they saved for sick hands in the Welt or some such place. Now, I ask you, Tompkins, how can we turn the hair of a Comanche like him?"

"Poker," said the bookkeeper.

"He says," Heffren replied, with a hopeless air of weariness, "that the only cards he ever plays is whist, and at home he has follered that game every night for twenty years."

"Oh, that kind, is he?" said Tompkins, meditatively. "Well, we'll give him a whirl."

It happened that Mr. Peddie was decidedly "that kind." Whist was his religion, Cavendish his Bible, and his club knew no more constant devotee of the silent game.

. . . . . .

That night four men sat about a card table in the office — Mr. Peddie, Q. C., John Heffren, Tompkins, and Joe Robinson, the foreman. A pair of gaudily painted lamps illumined the cozy room; pipes and cigars were in full blast, and a bottle and glasses were placed in hospitable proximity to the players. Everything foreshadowed an enjoyable evening, but the deliberate solemnity of the Americans would betray to any one but a stranger the existence of a momentous plot.

"Who'd expect," said the Englishman, "to have a quiet rubber on a cattle ranch? By Jove! it's luxurious, it's effeminate. In South Africa the wild devils are not beyond checkers."

"Fifty-three," announced Tompkins, thumping down the last of a pack of cards. "All set. Heffren, it's you and I against 'em."

Mr. Peddie lifted his eyebrows in incredulous inquiry.

"Fifty-three?" said he. "Is that right — for whist?"

"Certainly," Tompkins replied, without blushing. "Fifty-two and the joker. It's your deal, Mr. Peddie."

"What are we playing for?" growled Robinson. "The same old thing?"

"Sure," said Heffren, laying a revolver on the table. "What did you suppose — soap?"

"Well, I wanted to know beforehand," Robinson replied,

sticking an unsheathed bowie in his belt, "so's I wouldn't be caught afoot when the cattle is running."

These manifestations did not escape the Londoner, and he looked furtively at his partner. Tompkins was critically inspecting the edge of an axe, which he finally laid on the floor under his chair, and the deal was hastily finished.

"Look here, you know," said Mr. Peddie, "there's a card left over."

"That's the trump," said Robinson. "Where did you learn this game?"

Mr. Peddie gasped and Tompkins led the king of diamonds. The foreman promptly played a spade.

"No diamonds, partner?" asked Peddie, in the most silky and approved across-the-table voice.

"Yes," Robinson answered in apparent surprise, "a few."

"But you didn't play one, you know."

"Well," interposed Tompkins, contemplating the handle of his axe, "it's his own hand. Let him play it."

"Perhaps you don't understand the great American improvements in this game," said Robinson politely. "You see you don't have to follow suit unless you want to."

"And all ties go to the Kitty," volunteered Heffren, slapping down the joker and pulling in a trick.

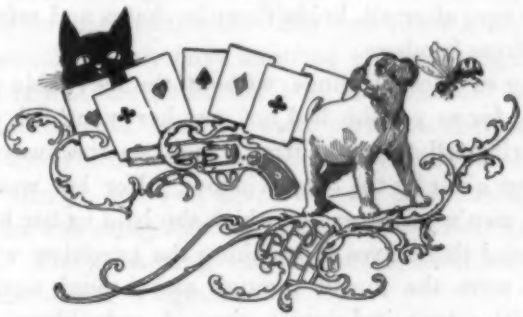
"It makes a pretty game," Robinson added. "You'll like it."

Like it! The unhappy club man could not have been tortured more effectively by the rack of the Inquisition. He was like a devoted monk, forced to be present at the desecration of a cathedral by a horde of barbarians. The politeness of a guest, backed by the impressive exhibition of weapons, stifled his protests, but the Chancellor of England could not have felt so outraged if he had been tied to his wool sack and compelled to witness a game of tag in the House of Lords. It was not even bumblepuppy. It was like a game from "Alice in Wonderland." When Robinson claimed that "Big Casino" outranked the ace, Mr. Peddie writhed in silent anguish. When Heffren, at the end of a hand, proceeded to add the points on the cards "to see who had game," Mr. Peddie's horrified eyes blinked rapidly with emotion. But when Tompkins told him that it was the leader's

privilege to play two cards at once in order to guard against emergencies, Mr. Peddie staggered to his feet and gesticulated violently.

"Gentlemen," he cried, "I have been in rough places before. I have been in the hardest land and among the hardest people in the world. I refer to South Africa." Heffren groaned. "But," continued Peddie, "never have I seen such barbarities as I have witnessed to-night, and, by the Lord Harry, I hope I never will again! Men who do such things will do anything, by George! This country may be all right to make money in, but it's not fit to live in. Mr. Robinson, by Jove, sir! you'll find my bag packed in the morning."

Far into the night the conspirators celebrated the sagacity of the bookkeeper. "Good enough to play whist with Peddie" is now the highest compliment which can be paid a card-player at the Three X.



The Transformation of Mrs. Dwight's Son-in-law.

BY LOUISE S. TODD.

THE window was open a little at the bottom and the warm spring breeze blew fitfully in upon the occupant of the low rocking chair.

It was one of those late April days when the buds show in tiny green spots on the blackened tree branches, when the grass begins to look fresh despite the brown patches which occur at intervals as though to prove that the brightness is only premature after all, and that summer is still far away.

One of those days when the warm air steals into one's veins and stirs all the youthfulness there, even that left in decrepit old age, filling one with something of former fervor and a desire to accomplish seemingly impossible ends; when the middle-aged fancy themselves young once more and start forward gaily to do battle with the world, with a reflection of youth's vigor, only to discover that middle age, after all, holds them in chains and refuses to release them from bondage.

Something of these feelings without the inevitable conclusion of despair — for as yet she had not put her youthful powers to the test — vibrated through Mrs. Dwight as she swayed to and fro in the low chair by the open window. Her lap was occupied by a pile of men's socks, one of which she held in her hand while her eyes busied themselves in watching the precision with which her fingers wove the thread through and through until the hole was filled with a beautiful, intact piece of embroidery. But her thoughts, impelled by the stirring of youth within her, had strayed to the past, not the far-off past — she never thought of that — but to the past which was the reason of her sitting there darning leisurely at a pile of men's socks.

Directly opposite Mrs. Dwight, on a low table, and where, if she raised her eyes for a moment, she could surely see it, stood a

large photograph in a silver frame with doors. The doors stood open. The portrait was one reason; the other was the owner of the socks.

The picture was that of a girl perhaps seventeen, with a purely oval face, framed in fair, wavy hair; with great dark eyes which looked at the gazer with a certain wistfulness almost pathetic, were it not contradicted by a sweet, tender mouth which seemed about to smile and which suggested a dimple in hiding at the corner. A very fair reason, this one; and she had been Mrs. Dwight's daughter.

It had all happened ten years before, and the bright, beautiful story had ended as suddenly as it began. Ah, that beginning! — with lovely, enchanting, spell-weaving Venice for a setting, Venice in spring — how soon to be shadowed by gloomy, cold, dark New York — New York submerged in a rainy winter. And that was all, but the exquisite happiness of a young life lay between.

Mrs. Dwight and her daughter had been traveling for nearly five years, finding that their scanty income was more satisfactorily utilized that way than in trying to live at home. There, in that Venetian spring, Mrs. Dwight had encountered a man from home, a man she had met many years before during her husband's lifetime, who remembered her, and with our usual American affinity became her cavalier forthwith. She had liked him; if she had not, she would quickly have snubbed him in her quiet, ladylike way. As it was, she permitted him to come and see them frequently and make a third to their party on their little jaunts. She never thought of him in any light save that of a kind compatriot, a man of her own age, who had been successful in his business and was using some of the results of that success to see the world. The awakening came when he asked her to give him her daughter — her Virginia.

"I do not ask you to give her up," he had said in his pleasant way, when he saw the quick pallor in her face. "I only ask you to take me in, to let me be your son-in-law." And then he had smiled a little at the absurdity of it—he, who had traveled life's path a year farther than she, asking to be regarded as her son-in-law.

She had accepted him as such when she found that Virginia had

given her heart to him with all the intense fervor of a child whose circle of loved ones has been limited. Virginia's mother sometimes wondered even yet if it had been more than a child's affection, if it was what the man demanded.

Then came a blissful two months of travel, when Mrs. Dwight found how pleasant it is to have some one to look after you and take charge of everything, for Mr. Winthrop had accompanied them and insisted upon being their courier. In the fall they had come home, and Mr. Winthrop had urged an early marriage, to which the mother could find no reasonable objection.

"My house is lonely," he had said to her. "I want my wife very much"; and then he had smiled so wistfully at her that she was forced to give way, inasmuch as she was to benefit by the change, too, and have a home once more; so the wedding was fixed for January.

But in December, hardly a month before the wedding, Virginia Dwight died. Oh, the bitterness of it all! They had been obliged to take her away from the apartment where they had secured rooms; in spite of Mr. Winthrop's urgency, Mrs. Dwight would not take Virginia to his house, and there had remained only the hospital.

After Virginia's death, Mr. Winthrop had come to her again, and she was too weak then to combat his arguments; so when he said he was as lonely as she, and that together they must learn to bear their sorrow, she agreed to come and take charge of his house. If she had not been so overcome by her grief she might have stopped to ask what the world would think, but she did not care about it then, and to her surprise, had she been capable of any such feeling, this was one time when the world said nothing. It seemed the natural thing to do; she had assumed in their eyes the position of Mr. Winthrop's mother. But on her arrival in Mr. Winthrop's house she covered her soft, dark hair with a little lace cap.

She was thinking over some of this past while the warm spring air blew in upon her, and her busy fingers continued to weave the threads into the hole in the work in her hands, when from the hallway came the sound of approaching footsteps and the rustle of silken garments. She put her work into the basket and the

basket under the table near her; then she stood up to greet her visitor. The rustle came through the door and filled the room as a tall woman swept gracefully forward, clad in all the attractive beauty of a new spring costume.

"How do you, Mrs. Dwight?" she said in the sweetly penetrating tones cultivated by a society woman. "I knew you wouldn't mind my coming right up."

"I am very well, thank you," replied the other, quietly ignoring the last remark. "How pretty you are looking," she added after a moment, but she spoke as though it were an admission she would rather not feel justified in making.

The younger woman, who was perhaps twenty-five or six, flushed a little and looked over her shoulder towards the door.

"Thank you," she said.

Mrs. Dwight knew her better than any other woman in New York, perhaps, for Marion Maybrook had made a point of calling on her very soon after Mr. Winthrop had taken up society again. Even now he did not go out so much as before Virginia had come into his life, yet he was in great demand, for he was still in his prime. A man is never more eligible than when he is in his early forties and has made a tolerable fortune; besides, Mr. Winthrop had such pleasant, deferential ways with women that they all liked him. Virginia's mother did not "go out," but she had returned Miss Maybrook's call, and Marion had taken that for an evidence of her liking, and come frequently ever since. Mrs. Dwight could not have told whether she liked Marion or not; she rather fancied not, since she had heard the rumor that "Marion Maybrook had the inside track with Clarence Winthrop." She had credited this feeling of resentment to a natural protest against any one's taking Virginia's place, and if the younger woman ever noticed any coolness in her manner, she never showed it, but came as often and was just as agreeable.

This afternoon she rattled on in her usual go-aheaditive way, talking of everything that was going on in the outside world, giving little bits of gossip, but through it all hovering around herself as a topic of conversation, as though there were something pleasant to be told concerning her. Marion had a bright way of telling things, which seemed to suit the key she used to talk in, and Mrs.

Dwight, listening with a quiet, interested smile, found her very entertaining, and wondered if others did, too, if men did. There was a restlessness apparent in Marion's manner which was puzzling, and several times she saw her eyes wander to the picture of Virginia, with what she fancied was a pitying curiosity.

Finally she spoke of the house, of its old-fashioned beauty, of the harmony of its decorations, the exquisiteness of the wood carving, and as she talked her eyes were fixed with something like pity on the older woman, whose cheeks flushed — the call seemed to drag endlessly. Marion stayed only an hour, but it seemed three or four before she stood up nervously and said with a quick, indrawn breath : —

"Won't you call me Marion just once, and kiss me as my own mother might?" She had put her hands on Mrs. Dwight's shoulders — she was a little the taller of the two — and she looked down at her with the same pitying look; then she stooped suddenly and kissed her cheek with a passionate eagerness. Her own mother was dead, and she lived alone with her father. When she stood up again there were bright tears in her eyes, but her mouth was stern.

"Hasn't Clarence Winthrop told you of the intended change in his life?" she asked; then seeing the bewildered look in her companion's face, she stooped again as though to kiss her. Mrs. Dwight drew back coldly.

"Mr. Winthrop tells me whatever it is necessary for me to know," she said icily. "You are going now? Good afternoon, Miss Maybrook."

"Yes, I must go; I have an engagement," Marion said hurriedly, a faint flush creeping up her cheek. "Good-by, Mrs. Dwight," and with another look at Virginia's picture she left the room.

Mrs. Dwight stood quite still until she heard the door close behind Marion in the lower hall, then she threw open all the windows, letting in the fresh spring air. It had grown a little cooler and the air had lost its tinge of warmth. She took up Virginia's picture, and leaning close to the open window looked into the dear eyes long and lovingly. The air blew coolingly on the pictured face as well as the living one. The loving scru-

tiny had lasted several minutes, when she put the photograph back on the table and shut the doors with a quick, passionate gesture.

There was a mirror above the fireplace, and she walked over to it, looking at herself with a frown.

"I am not old," she said to herself at last. "I feel too young; I will not be old."

The white lace caught the light and gleamed snowily. It was the work of an instant to take it off and pull the soft, wavy hair underneath into something like order.

"I am younger now," she whispered half aloud. "It was not merely the spring atmosphere; it was really there all the time, inside me, and this hideous cap made me forget it. Virginia," she added, "I know you will forgive me that your mother must reassert her age here in this house where she came as your husband's mother; but there is another woman now, and I am going to be alone again." Perhaps there was also a thought to which she did not give utterance, but which flushed her cheeks and made her turn away from the mirror; at least she was standing between two of the windows a few moments later when a man came in, and the draught was fanning the loosened hair against her heated cheeks, while the late rays of the afternoon sun shone caressingly on her head.

"Marion has been here, she tells me," the man said, yawning lazily as he came towards her. He was good-looking, though his hair was beginning to turn gray on the temples, and his moustache and beard were tinged in the same way. He was one of the many who make true the affirmation that New York is noted for its fine-looking middle-aged men.

The flush still remained on Mrs. Dwight's cheek, and she felt it burn deeper at this confirmation of her thought concerning Marion's engagement.

"Yes, Marion has been here," she said. Something in her tone made him look at her more sharply, and he saw her flushed cheeks, her tossed hair, and her little cap crushed in her hand.

"What has Marion been saying to you?" he asked, half smiling.

Mrs. Dwight steadied her voice with difficulty. "She tells me you intend making some change in your method of living."

Mr. Winthrop frowned angrily and muttered something under his breath before he answered.

"I do expect to," he said.

"Pray do not hesitate about telling me, Clarence," she returned, trying to control herself. "I still have something to live on, you know, and can leave you at any time when you find your — other arrangements. I can go in a moment, you know."

"But I don't see why it is necessary for you to leave me at all. Everything can go on just as it does now with, of course, this difference —"

"Certainly not," Mrs. Dwight interrupted. "I should not stay to be an encumbrance."

"I don't mean you to stay. I want to ask you to go —"

"I have said I would go, have I not?" she interrupted again.

Mr. Winthrop looked at her in amazement. She who was usually so calm and serene, who waited until he had said what he had to say and then discussed it with him quietly, she now interrupted him, speaking quickly and with evident excitement.

In his astonishment he looked around the room curiously, as though to discover the cause of the change. He saw the windows were wide open, he noted the work-basket, upset, as she hurried through the room to open the windows, the balls of cotton and a white china egg or two tumbling unheeded on the floor. Then his gaze came back to the figure before him. The serenity had depended on the little lace cap, perhaps, and she had thrown them both aside together. He wondered vaguely if she had thrown the former away forever, or if she had crushed it for the time as she had the flimsy bit of lace in her hand.

"Did Marion tell you what the change actually was?" he asked at last, watching her intently. She shook her head. "Then I must tell you myself," he continued. "We have been having trouble with our Chicago agent, and it has become necessary for one of the firm to go out there and look after affairs in person. As I am the least tied down here, the lot has fallen to me. That is what I am going to do."

Mrs. Dwight drew a sigh of relief. Until now she had not realized what it meant to her had he told her what she expected. He heard the sigh.

"What did you think Marion meant?" he asked.

She did not answer, but she drooped her head until her eyes were fastened on the carpet.

"Won't you tell me what you thought, — Gertrude?" He tried to call her "m'Aimée," Virginia's pet name for her and one which he had always used; but that seemed not to belong to the woman who stood before him now. It seemed to have been cast away with her serenity and her cap.

Mrs. Dwight tried to raise her head, tried to look at him, and speak with her old placid calm, but his gentle "Gertrude" disarmed her, and she only could murmur almost incoherently: —

"I thought — she meant — you were going — to be — married." Her voice trailed off in an inaudible whisper.

Mr. Winthrop heard, however, and his face grew deadly pale as he walked over to the window and stood looking out. The air which blew in was much colder now, and he shivered a little; perhaps that was the reason of his putting out his hand to steady himself. It touched the silver frame on the table and lingered there, the fingers closing over it. Then he seemed to feel it and look down. He saw the doors were closed.

Virginia's mother had raised her head, but her eyes were still downcast when Mr. Winthrop spoke to her. "I am going to be married," he said, "if the woman I want will have me."

She raised her eyes and looked at him half startled. "I think she will," she said in a low voice.

"I do not know," he said in the same way. "Will you?"

"I!"— Her voice broke. "I thought you cared for Marion; I am sure she cares for you."

"No," he said. "I know she cares for you, and I asked her to come here often, as I thought she would entertain you. I find her interesting, don't you? But I don't want Marion, I want you, Gertrude. Will you go out to Chicago with me as my wife?"

"I would, yes," she said frankly, her serene, loving eyes fixed on his; "but for Virginia —"

The man's fingers loosed their hold on the silver frame.

"Virginia belongs to the past, Gertrude, such a sweet, beautiful past. You and I have our future before us, and though the life we have lived here has suited these last ten years and New

York, it will not do for the rest of our lives and Chicago. I cannot live without you, Gertrude, and from now I shall love Virginia as my daughter, since she was yours."

I cannot live without you! That has overcome many arguments, and she had not many to overcome. She was so alone with only the picture of Virginia, and he needed her even as she needed him. But before he came around the table to her, they opened the doors of the silver frame.

The windows were closed when Marion Maybrook came back a half hour later, and Mrs. Dwight was sitting alone in the low rocking chair mending another hole. This mending had been the happiest thing in the past, the one thing she had done exclusively for him, and it belonged to her future, too. The nervousness was still apparent in Marion's manner when she came in, but she forgot it in a little outburst of pleasure.

"How pretty your hair is!" she said. "And you have covered it all these years." Then she knelt down beside the older woman, after a quick glance at the picture on the table, and spoke hurriedly. "I came to tell you something this afternoon, and then my courage gave out. I am engaged to be married. Don't you remember my telling you about Jack Glenshawe? You know it began in Venice, and I hated somehow to tell you because your daughter — Dear Mrs. Dwight, I have no one to be glad with me." Marion's head with its pretty new spring hat was pressed against her companion's shoulder.

The older woman dropped her mending and patted the younger's shoulder tenderly; there were tears in her eyes and in her voice, as well as a great love and pity in her heart for the girl at her side. She did not hesitate about her emotion now.

"My dear," she said very tenderly, "it would only have made you nearer and dearer to me. It would have seemed as though you were taking Virginia's place. Oh, my dear!" Marion had thrown her arms around Mrs. Dwight's neck and was kissing her passionately.

"Every one has been so nice about it," she whispered. "But no one has looked at me as you have done." In a moment or two she stood up and looked again at the picture on the table. "May I?" she said; but without waiting for a reply she had kissed the pic-

tured, smiling lips. "I think I should have loved her," she explained, "but I never dared to speak of her to you."

As she put the picture back on the table, Mr. Winthrop came in.

"Have you told Marion?" he asked. Then as Mrs. Dwight shook her head, flushing a little, he added, "Marion, will you come to a quiet wedding to-morrow noon at St. Mary's? You may not see us again, as we are going south for a few days and then to Chicago. By the way, how did you know I was going out there?"

Marion smiled a little and the color came up into her cheeks. "Jack told me," she said. "He heard it out there."

"Oh! Jack is here, too, isn't he? I forgot I saw you with him a few hours ago Perhaps you had better bring him with you to-morrow."

Marion kissed Mrs. Dwight very tenderly as she said good-by, adding, "I shall see you some day in Chicago."

But before she left the house she came back and called from the doorway, with happy tears sounding through her ringing tones: —

"I am so glad about you two dear people. I always knew you were intended for each other, and was so afraid you would never find it out."

She saw they were standing in the light from the western window, and that Clarence Winthrop's arm lay across Mrs. Dwight's shoulders; but neither she nor they noticed that the wistfully smiling picture of Virginia had fallen face downwards on the table.

The Man from Alaska.

BY LOUIS WESLYN JONES.

POOR little Monsieur François! He leaned against the short counter in the front part of his little restaurant and allowed his tearful gaze to wander out into the street over the boiled crabs, juicy beefsteak, and wine bottles which adorned his show window. One thing was certain, he thought to himself — that, if he would continue as proprietor of the "Louis d'Or French Eating House," assuredly something must be done immediately towards improving business. But what could he do without capital with which to back his operations? Mechanically he opened the cash drawer and peeped in. What he saw couldn't have offered much encouragement, for he closed it quickly, and, with a deep sigh, once more gazed out into the street. After all, he thought, what was the use of longer continuing the everlasting struggle for success? Here he was, with the same little restaurant, in the same little side street, offering to the public the same excellent cooking as when he first started in business fifteen years before — and yet how different was everything now! Many other restaurants had sprung up in the neighborhood, and, alas! there wasn't enough trade to go round.

"*Sapristi!* San Francisco is filled with eating houses," groaned the little Frenchman, "and so many poor, cheap affairs, too! My old customers have deserted me. What care Americans for good cooking? The American atmosphere affects even my own countrymen, who also pass me by. Bah! they think me old-fashioned; they believe me not *fin de siècle.* Had I but a thousand dollars what couldn't I do? I would make the "Louis d'Or" so attractive that none could resist it. But alas! I've nothing — nothing. Unless trade improves I must surely close up in another week. I fear that I must ask Pierre and Jean to wait a few more

days for their wages — poor, honest fellows, they are the only ones that have stuck by me." And mine host had hard work to keep back those glistening, rebellious tears.

Just then a cab was driven up alongside the curbstone directly in front of the restaurant.

"Surely it won't stop here," thought François.

But it did stop there; and a big giant of a fellow clambered out of it with a great deal of unnecessary noise, and, handing the driver a five-dollar gold piece, dismissed him and his vehicle. Then the big man, who was dressed in a rough but well-fitting suit of brown Scotch cloth, opened the door of the "Louis d'Or" and stepped inside. He drew a large gold watch from his pocket and noted the time as he inquired in a stentorian voice that admirably suited the rest of his general make-up, "Five o'clock — am I too early for *dinner à la carte?*"

François answered no — that, although Monsieur was the first guest of the evening, his dinner should certainly not be delayed, nor in any way inferior, on that account.

"Good!" shouted the big man, seating himself at the large table in the middle of the room. "If you're ready, why then, by George! I am, too. Bring on your menu."

Pierre at once appeared with the bill of fare. Faithful Pierre! — he was the only waiter left now. But then, as François had argued, such a modest little restaurant with such a very slender patronage didn't require more than one waiter.

The big stranger's large blue eyes swept the cardboard at a glance. Then he stroked his luxurious brown beard and bellowed enthusiastically: "Who says there's another such place in all 'Frisco as the 'Louis d'Or'? Damn your bespangled and bemirrored cafés, say I! Give me good eating in a tiny shop like this, where you pay your honest money for honest cooking and honest wines, and not for a lot of devilish clap-trap rubbish!"

François's face showed uncertainty. Was this big chap drunk, or fooling, or really sincere? The guest seemed to read his host's thoughts, for he added immediately: —

"Oh, I mean just what I say! I'm not one of your confounded joshers, and I'm not under the influence, either. To tell the plain, unvarnished truth, I've had nothing to eat and nothing

to drink for twenty-six hours. Oh, I've been preparing for this feast, I can tell you!"

François's face showed worriment. Could the big chap pay for his dinner? Had he any money, that he had starved so long? Again were his thoughts apparently read by the first guest of the evening, who went on to say: "Don't you be afraid for an instant that I'm unable to settle my bill. Why, dang it all, man! I'll not only pay, but I'll pay better than you were ever paid in your life before!" And he whacked a bulging leathern wallet down on the table with such force that the water-bottle was almost upset. "And now, waiter," he continued, "bring on the soup."

"What kind of soup, sir?" asked the interested Pierre.

"All kinds," replied the big man.

"Very well, sir"; and Pierre went about his duty with a puzzled expression on his brow, while Monsieur François pinched his leg under the counter to make sure of his wakefulness.

While Pierre was gone, the stranger improved the time by carefully studying the bill of fare, and marking with a blue pencil the dishes that especially appealed to him. When the waiter returned he brought with him an immense tray containing six dishes of soup of various kinds, which he proceeded to arrange in a semicircle on the table before the big man.

"Ah!" exclaimed the latter gentleman, "this is what I call bully!" And he sampled each soup in turn, beginning at the right-hand side and taking them in rotation. "Now, when they are ready, bring on the fish."

"What kind of fish, sir?"

"All kinds."

Pierre's eyes sought his master's, but he could gain no additional intelligence from the stupid look on François's countenance.

"Very well, sir," mechanically said Pierre, and started off.

"And the wine, too," called the guest.

"What kind, sir?" Pierre stopped to inquire from the doorway.

"All kinds," was the hearty reply; and Pierre disappeared with a reverential bow.

The stout gentleman appeared to be delighted with the soups, and was not at all backward in expressing his satisfaction.

"This *consommé* is grand!" he declared, nodding approvingly at François, "and so are these other three, but when it comes to downright epicurean excellence, I'm thinking, by George! that it's a stand-off between the tomato-bisque and the mock-turtle."

And he fell to with renewed vigor, and did justice to each one of the six.

Then Pierre reappeared with his immense tray, loaded down with boiled salmon, fried flounder, broiled boned smelts, and other palate ticklers from the sea, which soon were being devoured by the hungry guest with many manifestations of pleasure.

"Don't forget the wines," he managed to say between mouthfuls, as the waiter vanished with the empty soup dishes.

The wines were soon at hand — pint bottles of fine old claret, Burgundy and Riesling, and the big man finished them all, together with most of the fish, while François and Pierre looked on with growing interest and wonder.

"And now," cried the banqueter, with undaunted enthusiasm, "let's have everything that I've marked with the blue pencil," and he tossed the cardboard to the waiter. "And, by the way, have you any extra dry champagne? Well, bring me a half-dozen bottles — the finest you have."

There's no use going further into details regarding that dinner. Let it be sufficient to say that no one human being, before or since, ever consumed a greater amount of food and drink at one sitting than did that lone guest at the "Louis d'Or." To remark that François and Pierre were amazed is to say too little — they were appalled, paralyzed, for in all their experience they had seen nothing like it. François made up his mind that, at all events, the big chap must and should be humored; Pierre couldn't even make up his mind — it was beyond him.

While the stranger was finishing his dessert, a few old customers dropped into the restaurant for their usual evening meal, and the waiter was compelled to divide his attention and services between them and the stout gentleman. When the newcomers observed the numerous empty dishes and wine bottles on the table in front of the lone banqueter, they all stopped to gaze in astonishment at such an unusual spectacle. Oblivious of all the excitement he was causing, that gentleman finished his black coffee and cognac

with a flourish, and then, rising noisily to his feet, announced in a loud voice that he was through.

"All except," he added with emphasis, "the toast. My friends, pardon me for interrupting you at the very beginning of your dinner, but I have three bottles of champagne left — the best, by the way, that ever warmed the heart — and I want you all to join me in drinking — the toast."

The newcomers all signified their willingness to partake of the wine at the expense of the liberal gentleman, and Pierre was ordered to fill all glasses.

"Yours also, mine host," called out the banqueter, with a low bow to François. "And yours, too, waiter."

And so both proprietor and servant joined the party with well-filled bumpers, in spite of François's protest that it was a very unusual proceeding.

"By George!" suddenly shouted the stout man, "I nearly forgot the cook. Oh, say, let's have the cook by all means."

And the wondering Jean was brought forth into the world from the mysteries of his kitchen amid general applause, and was given a large goblet of sparkling champagne.

"And now, my friends," continued the big man, his good-natured face all aglow, "allow me to explain the origin of the toast which we are about to drink. Just a year ago this month a poor, proud devil, who had failed in business, came here to 'Frisco without a penny in his pocket. For three long, dreary days he walked the streets of this town, seeking employment, without a bite of food to eat. On the evening of the third day he found a ten-cent piece in a gutter. He was so devilish hungry that he must have been a little out of his head, for, strange as it seems, he felt that nothing on earth would satisfy his outraged appetite but raw oysters. Oh, I know it sounds funny, but just wait till you are dying of that terrible sickness, starvation, and then see how it affects you — no two men alike, I swear. Well, gentlemen, this unhappy chap went from restaurant to restaurant in a dazed sort of way, trying to get ten cents' worth of oysters with salt and pepper, and lemon on 'em, but in every place he was laughed at, and sneered at, and was turned away, until he happened into a tiny French cook-shop in a little side street, where

they served him the few oysters as if he were buying a dozen, — with salt, and pepper, and lemon, too, by George! And in one of those oyster shells that starving man found a large pearl. He didn't realize what it was at first, and when a jeweler in Montgomery Street gave him three hundred dollars for it, the shock nearly killed him. The forlorn stranger's good luck dated from his visit to that little French eating-house. He met an old acquaintance that very night, who was bound for the Alaska gold fields, and the two of them made the trip together — and struck it rich! I was that starving man, gentlemen, and this was the restaurant where I got my oysters. And, gentlemen, since I arrived in San Francisco twenty-six hours ago, I've touched neither food nor drink, in order that I might banquet here this evening in a manner befitting the occasion. And I might add that even ordinarily I have the appetite of an ox. I've just finished the grandest feast ever set before man, gentlemen, and I've made out my own bill, which amounts to exactly two thousand and sixty dollars, with a hundred dollars each to waiter and cook as tips — and there's the cash!"

With this the big man laid a great roll of crisp bank bills on the table.

"Don't interrupt," he cried, as François tried hard to speak. "Every dollar of it is due you. And now, gentlemen, up with your glasses!" Every glass was held on high.

"Here's to the 'Louis d'Or' and its proprietor!" roared the big fellow. "May their success increase with each new day."

And every glass was drained.

"Ah, there's my cab now!" the banqueter exclaimed, and before any one could collect his scattered wits, the man from Alaska was out of the door, which, however, was opened immediately while the big, brown head was thrust inside.

"Oh, I say, gentlemen," called out the departing guest, "there are some of my cards," and he tossed a bunch of business pasteboards into the room. "I'm to be married at the Occidental Hotel next Wednesday morning, and I want all of you to come. If you don't," and he winked threateningly at François, "why, damn it all, I'll come back and eat you out of house and home!"

Two Christmas Eves.

BY WILSON S. HENRY.

NUMBER 1, the overland express, had just roared past Granite in its western flight, and Number 17, the fast freight, was reported four hours late, so the agent had four hours of Christmas eve to himself. There was a glowing, soft-coal fire in the whitewashed stove in his snug little office, which threw out welcome heat. The light of a kerosene lamp was subdued by an ornate paper shade, upon which some Louis XV sort of people were doing a gay dance on a green lawn.

The agent at Granite was a tall, good-looking young fellow, with a smooth face that, just now, was so bright that it had to be shaded like the lamp, with a soft felt hat. Observant people who glanced at the Granite depot out of car windows as the train rushed past usually said: "What a dreary life!" or wittily asked each other how any one could exist in such a spot, "a thousand miles from nowhere." Now the fact is, that instead of being "a thousand miles from Nowhere," Granite was just six miles from Everywhere — the place at which all of us try to locate sometime or other.

The Everywhere of this poor devil of an agent was the ranch of one Thompson, and the girl who made it Everywhere was Thompson's daughter. She had made it Somewhere to him for a long time, and very gently, but surely, had it come to be Everywhere. They had taken many long rides and walks over the prairie, that gently undulated away from them with but little topographical interruption for hundreds of miles in every direction. His love for her had grown to accord with this vast expanse of landscape, until it filled all the vista, from the hills that narrowed into a cañon in the east, to the far, high mountains in the west. And so, because it was a great, vigorous, outdoor

love, he had found it hard to tell her of it by word of mouth, though he often felt that just a little word would do it all, so nearly did her thoughts seem to run with his, and so knowing were her dark eyes.

This Christmas eve he told her all about it on paper. With an absurd idea of doing justice to the thing, he filled both sides of ten sheets — the Railway Company's own private paper — and then, in despair, he had put it all into three lines. He finally compromised on two pages of what was really, from a literary standpoint, an admirable specimen of condensation. It was to be sent out with some Christmas gifts, brought out for him from Cheyenne by the obliging conductor of Number 3.

For Her mother there was a Scotch plaid shawl of florid design.

For Her father there was an elegantly bound morocco volume of five hundred gilt-edged leaves, entitled, "The Horse; His Diseases," with a spirited gilt horse, remarkably free from disease, cavorting upon the cover.

For Her there was a "hand-painted" satin Christmas card. It bore a winter scene that sparkled beautifully with imitation snow. Under it was a pretty verse, so warm with love that it would have melted anything more like snow than diamond dust. The packages were wrapped up and the letter duly addressed.

As he sat waiting for Thompson's man, Whittaker, who had promised to look in after finishing his business at Fleener's store, he gave freedom to his fancy, which threw love-lights ahead and showed him that golden future we all dream of, and which always cheats us by dribbling along, one poor little day at a time, instead of coming all at once, as we promise ourselves it will.

From the confused rattling of the telegraph key his ear suddenly caught the letters "Gn-Gn-Gn-"; his call. He took the following message: —

ROCK CREEK, IDAHO, Dec. 24.

P J. THOMPSON, GRANITE: —

East drift cut ore pipe below fault yesterday. Breast in solid horn silver. Assays forty-one to sixty-four hundred. Old Chute sure.

WARNER.

As he sent back the "O. K." Whittaker and Fleener came in. He arose excitedly with the message in his hand.

"Say," he said, "they've struck it in the old man's claim — found the old vein. Look here — four thousand dollars a ton; how's that for a little Christmas present?"

"The hell you say!" exclaimed Whittaker fervently; "well, I want to tell you right here that I never worked for a whiter man than old Thompson; must be hundreds and thousands there. Holy Smoke, what a strike!"

"More'n likely it'll pinch out 'fore they git in six foot," said Fleener.

"Yes; 'n more'n likely they got fifty million dollars there askin' to be shot down and histed out. He's a dead square man, too. I'll take that telegraph out in a hurry. You got some other stuff to go?" he queried of Andrews; "be quick with it."

"Why, yes; I — here — No, no — nothing else at all."

"Well, so long! I'll skin out with this; it'll paralyze him!"

"Prob'ly ain't nothin' but a blamed pocket," said Fleener. "'Tain't no trick to find good *prospecks*. What's the matter, under the weather? Ain't feelin' well, eh? Guess I'll go over to th' store'n tell the boys about it."

For a moment Andrews stood still, trying to determine just what calamity had befallen him. He took the three packages and placed them on a table in his little bedroom off the office. He took the letter in both hands, as if to tear it across, but hesitated; then he put it away in the bedroom with the painted satin Christmas card. It was worthless now, like the currency of a conquered nation; but it had once been legal tender for a fortune of dreams.

A little later an operator in the Chief Dispatcher's office at Cheyenne said: "Granite must be getting a Christmas jag on; he broke four times, taking that order for seventeen."

Three days later at the station, Thompson said to Andrews: "Well, we're goin' to get out of this God-forsaken place at last, goin' to travel awhile, and then we'll settle in a civilized country where we can have first-class advantages. There's that daughter of mine has growed up here on the desert and never seen anything. I'm goin' to take her where she can see the proper sort of people and live right among 'em."

"I think she will lead a very happy life," said Andrews.

"Well, it won't be my fault if she don't. We got money now, and she can trot with the best of 'em."

. . . . . .

There was much confusion around the depot the day the Thompsons left. All of Granite was there to see them off, and twenty people can make quite a stir. Martha was sprightly and vivacious, and her pretty, tanned face was rich in color.

"Good-by, Hugh," she said, and she clasped his hand tightly and tried to look into his eyes.

"Good-by, Martha," he said; "I hope you will —"

Whatever it was he hoped, he didn't say it distinctly; it seemed to be something commonplace enough, though. There was a last pressure from her warm little fingers, and she was in the car.

As the train started, she looked out at him with wistful eyes, but his gaze was centered upon an imaginary point a thousand miles or so beyond the farthest mountain peak. For this reason she secluded herself and cried for fifty miles.

. . . . . .

All through the long days after they had gone he had ample time to think over his loss. While he really felt it to be irreparable, he still possessed that magnificent delusion Hope, which was always reiterating a lot of nonsense to him. In the hot summer days, when the sun blistered the little red wooden building and every green thing died under its heat, his love was only seasoned by it. And when winter came again and dressed the earth in swan's-down and snowy, spangled tights for its Christmas pantomime, the biting blasts only made his love more hardy.

His hope was really not impractical. It comprised simply: the sudden loss of P. J. Thompson's entire fortune through unwise speculation, complete failure of the mine in which he still retained an interest, and the immediate return of the family, in comparative poverty, to Granite. That would bring Her back — his own little Martha of the old days, with her plain dresses and pretty ways; her deep eyes, her soft brown hair, and her little hands that could hide so easily in his. He felt that if she should come back that way he could tell her of his love.

Then there would come days when those foolish hopes that lure lovers from reason would fail him, and he would grow low-

spirited and morose. At such times Fleener would come across the track from the store and cheer him up.

"'Tain't money as makes people easy in this here world," he would remark sententiously. "I know folks with thousands of dollars, et ain't reely any better off'n I be." Mr. Fleener's time was chiefly occupied in sitting in front of his store and meditating cynically. Mrs. Fleener boarded the section-men.

"Now jest take that Thompson girl, fer egsample," he said one day; "she'll prob'ly git married to a damned prince er a dook, er some of that riffraff, that's what American girls with money does these times, 'n they git led a dog's life, too; the titles, 'n glory, 'n striped uniforms, 'n hemlets is what ketches 'em every time. My wife's third cousin, Blivens by name, — Homer J. Blivens, — made a pile of money on a paten' right; then his girl up 'n married a furrin' nobleman right away. They'r livin' in a kind of stone palace in Injia, with whole passels of people to wait on 'em, 'n wearin' special clothes fer it."

There was no good reason to doubt the truth of this narrative except the fact that Mr. Fleener was a notorious liar.

Toward the end of the second year after the Thompsons' departure Mr. Fleener sauntered into the office one day.

"Ain't heard the news yit, eh?" he asked Andrews. "Well, Moss Brothers down to Hailey has got a contrak to put up a house fer Thompson, out on the ranch, an' they're comin' back here to live. Mebbe we'll board some of the workers."

"What's that? When are they coming — soon?"

"Oh, I d'no; sometime, I guess. They'll prob'ly have a big one, with blines and coop'los and marble chimleys onto it; 'n they'll most likely have gorgeous furnishins inside — cookoo clocks, 'n music boxes, 'n bristles carpets. Some 'a them carpets 's got bristles that long," he added, indicating about eighteen inches.

. . . . . .

It was the second Christmas Eve. Number 1 seemed to wheeze and grumble to itself at having to stop at a place like Granite long enough to let three people off. But there they were on the platform, and Andrews welcomed them.

"Whittaker won't be along 'til about nine," he said; "it's a bad night for the horses, and the train was an hour late at three."

"Mother has a bad headache; may she lie down in your room until John comes?" It was Martha. Her hand was white now, but as firm of clasp as ever. Her face was paler, but her eyes were the same. The most striking change was in her waist. Its lines had been emphasized by a cunning artificer in dress, and some latent curves had been developed. She said she was glad to see him again, and went to rub her mother's head with camphor.

"You haven't got an extry pipe, have you, Andrews?" Thompson asked. He was quickly supplied with one, which he filled and smoked eagerly. "That's real smoke," he said; "and you can't get it out of cigars, either. Well, I'm glad to get back to God's country again; back where you can see a hundred miles, and get all the clean air you want to breathe, and don't have to dodge shiny carriages. No more travel for me, my boy. Of course I couldn't get out of it at first — you know how the wimmen folks pester a man; but they'll be contented here, now. We been all over Chicago, and London, and It'ly, and Paree, as they call it. They're too small and crowded, and *slow*, too; they don't get to dinner 'til supper time, and then they bring you a little dab at a time — tabble dote that is. I didn't stand it long; I'd jest have 'em bring me a good porterhouse steak, *with plenty of fat on it*, and some fried potatoes, and a piece of pie. A man wants to see jest what he's got to eat, and not have a lot of fricaseed truck run in on him after he thinks he's down to cases. They don't know how to use money, either. Why, in Noo York they give you *pennies* in change; and when you get a bill changed, do you think they give you good hard silver dollars that you can feel? Not much! They lay out a lot of greasy one-dollar bills; I got fifteen or sixteen of the mis'able little things in my pockets this minute, and —"

"Hugh!" It was Martha's voice, calling him from the doorway. He had thought her pale at first; now two bright spots of color glowed on her cheeks, and her eyes were unnaturally bright. He stepped quickly into the little room. She closed the door and stood with her back against it, facing him with a look of accusation. He saw that her mother was asleep on his bed. She spoke in low but excited tones, and it seemed to him she was making an effort to keep from laughing — or crying, was it?

"Hugh, you're not a fit man to be in a position of trust. You've

been false to my best friend, and I'm going to do something about it — I think I ought to write to the Government."

She had held one hand behind her; she put it forward now, and in it was that old letter he had written to her. "I was looking through your scrap-book and I found it — and I — I read it."

Through a glare of light he saw the two unfolded sheets. He made a quick step forward and grasped the hand that held them.

"It was that night two years ago, Martha, and just after I'd written it, the message came about the mine. I was afraid to send it then — it wouldn't have looked well, and your father said so much about your meeting the right sort of people."

"You were a coward, Hugh." There was scorn, and something else, in her glance that seemed to draw all the nerves in his body to the hand that grasped hers. "You didn't dare send it, and you forgot me in a little while, and I — I *wanted* that letter."

"No, no, Martha, I never forgot — never for a day nor an hour — I love you for always — Martha."

The old lady on the bed stirred uneasily, and opened her eyes. She closed them lazily again, though, as if she had expected something of the sort.

Thompson *père* opened the door and heard his daughter say: "*That's* American, isn't it?"

"What's American?" he demanded. Martha submitted to "that" again, for his general enlightenment.

He grasped Hugh's hand. "Young man, you're all right."

The words were not much, but men are creatures of the flesh,— most of them can say more in a hand-shake than in an oration.

The dispatcher on duty at Cheyenne that night said: "Must be a new man on at Gn. He's a bird on the key, I'll tell you."

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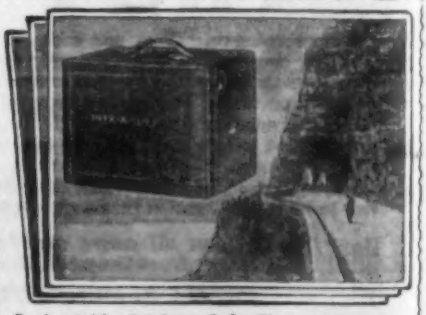

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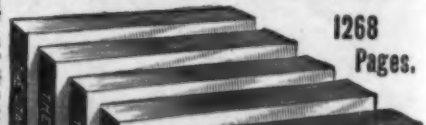

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A Fraud Exposed.

Every reader of The Black Cat and every publisher knows that its stories are copyrighted, and that each number gives due notice of such legal protection. No better evidence of the superior excellence of The Black Cat stories is needed than the fact that the property of no other periodical has been so widely pirated. In their anxiety to publish the cleverest short stories of the day, a number of the foremost papers have repeatedly been led to disregard the Eighth Commandment. The compliment thus paid to The Black Cat, while highly flattering, was wholly unwelcome, and one which has cost some of these papers dearly, and will cost others still more dearly. Conspicuous among these latter offenders is that brilliant hypocrite of American journalism, whose efforts to get something for nothing, and to shine at the expense of The Black Cat, are exposed by the following:—

[From the New York *Evening Sun*, Nov. 20, 1897.]

THE MEW OF THE BLACK CAT.

The following letter was recently received by THE EVENING SUN:

THE SHORTSTORY PUBLISHING COMPANY,
144 HIGH STREET,
BOSTON, MASS., November 6, 1897.

Publishers THE SUN, *New York, N. Y.:*

GENTLEMEN—The publication by you in THE EVENING SUN for June 2, 1897, of the story headed "Iali, Which Means Forgiven," constitutes an infringement of our rights, as the tale in question is our exclusive property, due notice of copyright having been given in the issue of *The Black Cat* for October, 1895, in which the story originally appeared under the title, "In a Tiger Trap."

We are obliged to insist upon reparation because the injury done by the infringement is substantial. As an instance of this we may mention that our plans to have the tale appear in book form have been defeated by your action in rendering our property free to all, as it were.

Your editor's attempt to get first-class fiction for nothing simply resulted in his dealing in pirated property, and the fact that you credited the tale to the London *Mail* is of course wholly irrelevant.

Fully believing that the publication by you was without knowledge of our rights, though that constitutes no defence, we are willing to accept a due bill for one hundred and fifty dollars' worth of advertising space in the MORNING and EVENING SUN, to be used by us for advertising our publication within thirty days from this date. This offer to accept nominal reparation is, however, conditional upon its prompt acceptance by you. Very respectfully,

THE SHORTSTORY PUBLISHING CO.
H. D. UMBSTAETTER, Treasurer.

The facts are that the story referred to was never copied by THE EVENING SUN from *The Black Cat* of October, 1895, but that a story published by THE EVENING SUN was copied from the London *Mail*, to which paper it was duly credited. Under these circumstances THE EVENING SUN declines to submit to the extortion of $150 worth of advertising space.

The fact is that there isn't a penitentiary in the land whose inmates will not unanimously endorse the stand taken in the closing paragraph of the *Sun's* characteristic comment. The story in question was stolen from The Black Cat, whose exclusive property it is, and the difference between filching it directly from The Black Cat and crediting it to an English pirate is simply the difference between a thief and the receiver of stolen property. The *Sun's* conduct stands in pitiful contrast with its hysterical howlings about the sacredness of property, the protection of commercial rights, the hideousness of anarchy, and the loathsomeness of yellow journalism. And its failure to make redress when caught in the possession of a pirated story stamps it as a hypocrite and a humbug. Its attempt to palm off on its readers a two-year-old American tale as a new English product is evidence that its vociferous patriotism is of that strictly professional kind which was defined by Dr. Johnson as the "last refuge of a scoundrel." That the *Sun*, however, has spasms of sanity is proved by the fact that when, on a previous occasion, it was caught in appropriating a story from The Black Cat it offered profuse apologies and promptly sent its check in atonement. Happily, the laws are such that this old offender, trapped again, who declines to "submit to extortion" by making nominal reparation, will be forced to make substantial reparation. Meantime the *Sun* already stands convicted of dealing in stolen property.

THE SHORTSTORY PUBLISHING COMPANY.

BOSTON, MASS., December, 1897.

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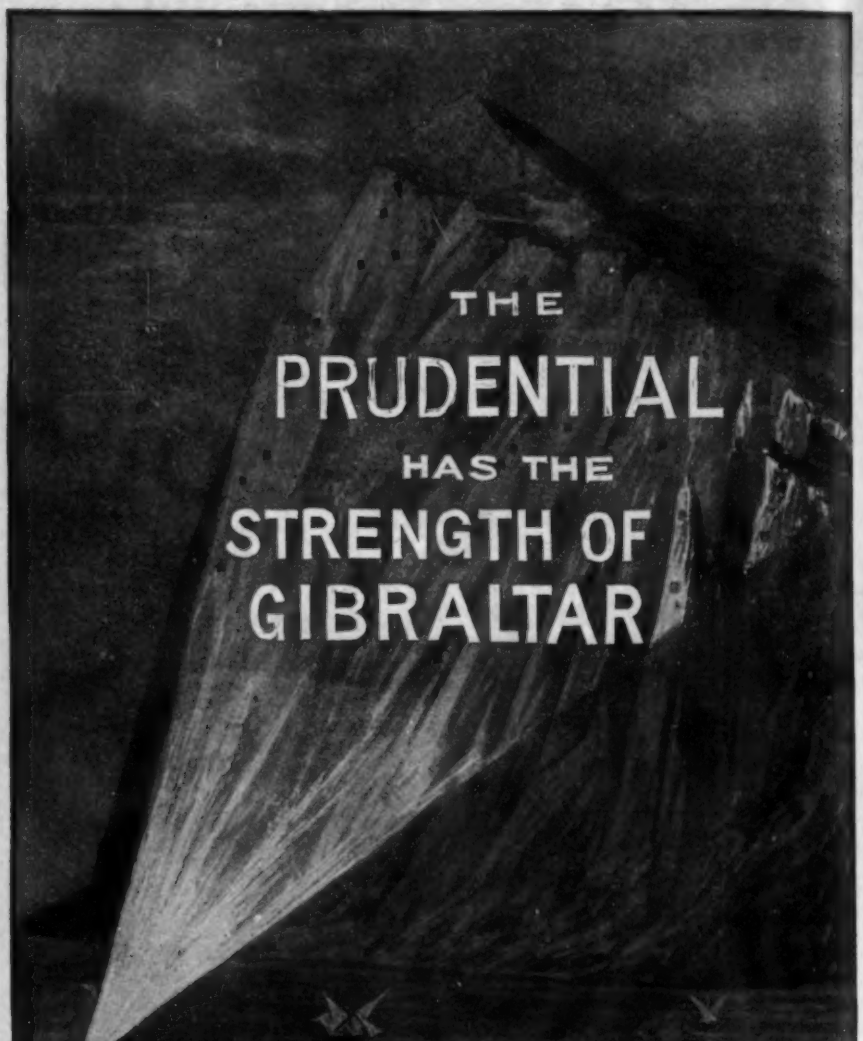

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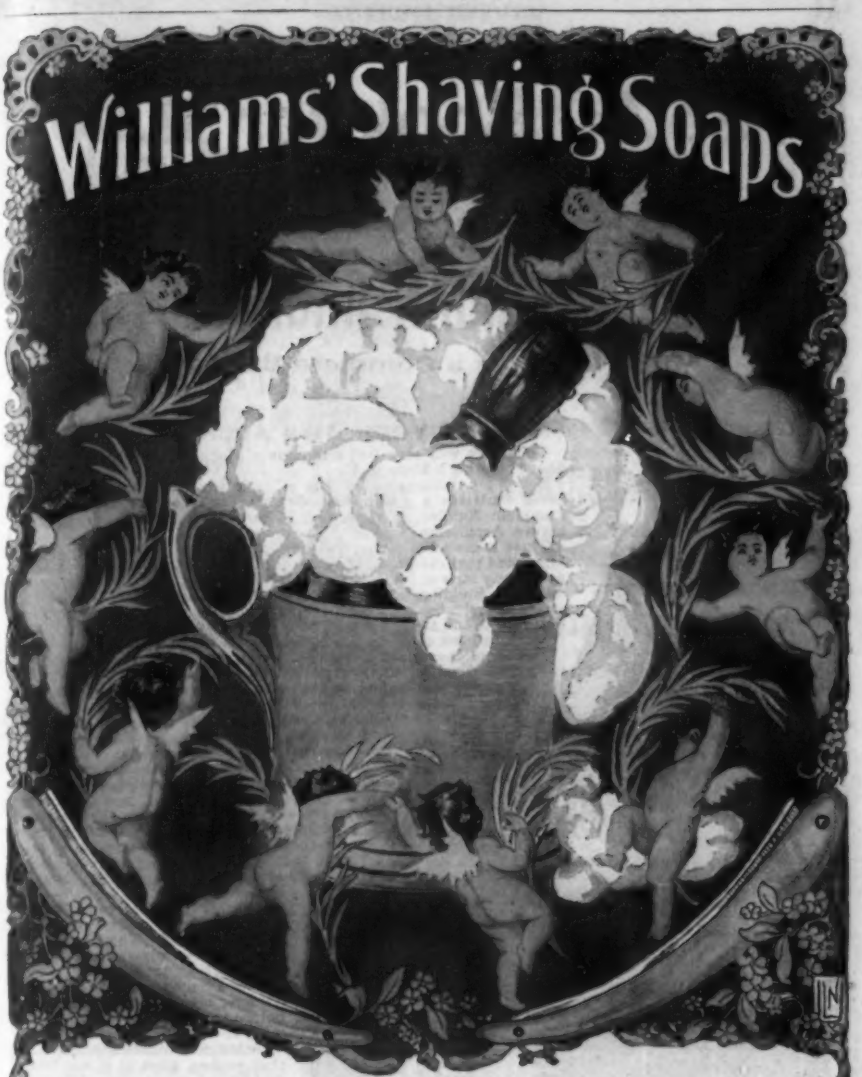

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(From *The Journalist*, New York, Dec. 25, 1897.)

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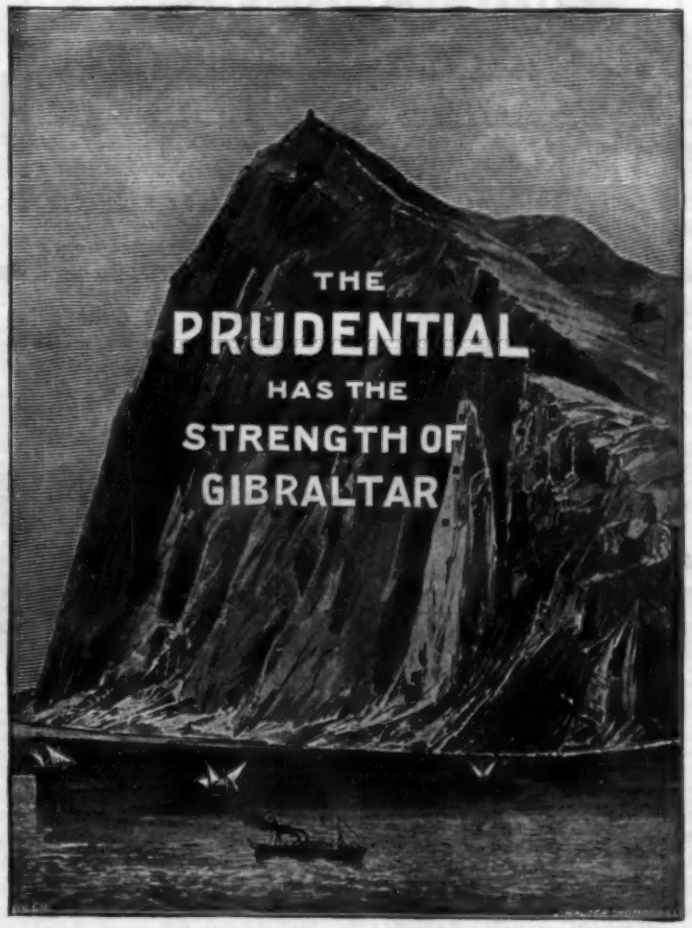

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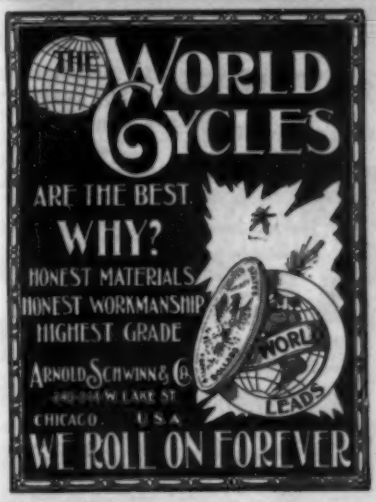

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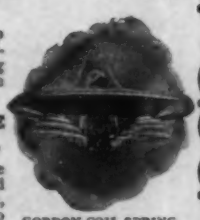

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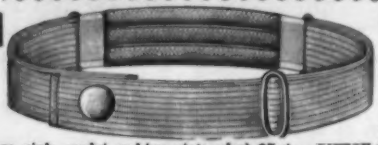

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3. All stories will be judged purely on their own merits, and the name or reputation of a writer will carry absolutely no weight whatsoever. Every story will be judged not in accordance with its length, but with its worth as a story.

4. With every manuscript intended for this $4,000 prize competition there must be enclosed, in one and the same envelope, one yearly subscription to THE BLACK CAT, from January, 1898, to January, 1899, together with 50 cents to pay therefor.

5. All envelopes containing manuscripts with subscriptions as above must be plainly marked, "For Competition," and addressed, "The Shortstory Publishing Company, 144 High St., Boston, Mass." Their receipt will be promptly acknowledged. Any competitor may send as many stories as he pleases, but in each case all the above conditions must be complied with.

6. The competition will close March 31, 1898, and within 60 days from that date the awards will be announced in THE BLACK CAT, and paid in cash. Should two stories be found of equal merit, the respective prizes will be either doubled or divided. In the case of stories unsuccessful in the competition but deemed desirable, the publishers will either award special prizes, of not less than $100 in each instance, or will offer to purchase the same. All unsuccessful manuscripts will be returned, together with the printed announcement of the results of the competition. The conditions and requirements being here fully set forth, neither the publishers nor the editor can undertake to enter into correspondence relative thereto.

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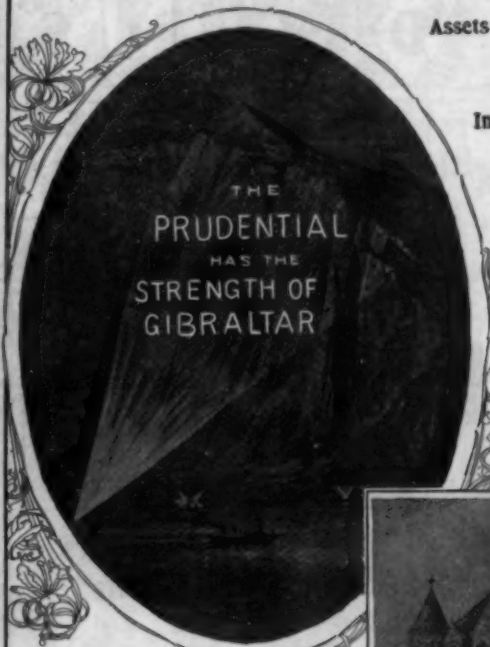

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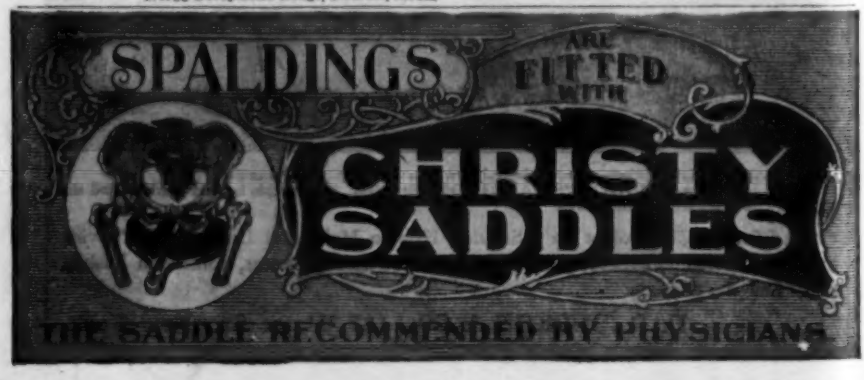

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20 LBS. OF FAT.

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MRS. ANNIE WALKER.

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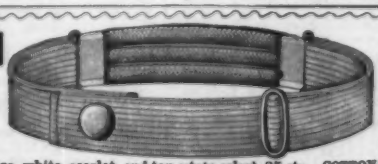

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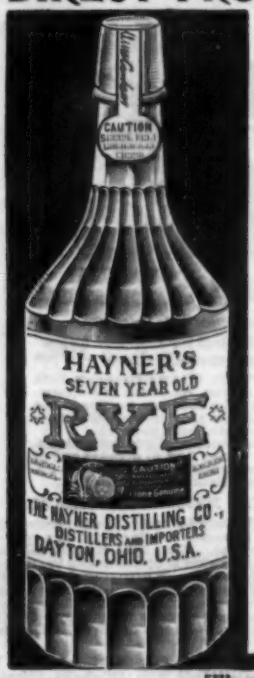

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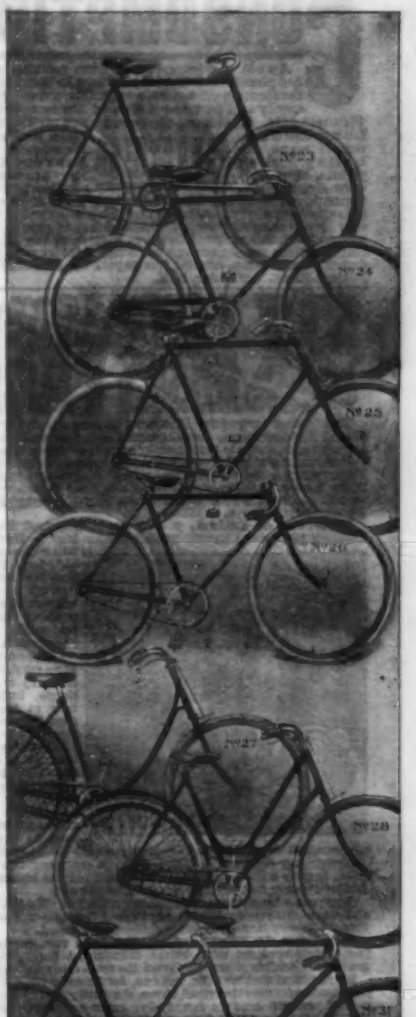

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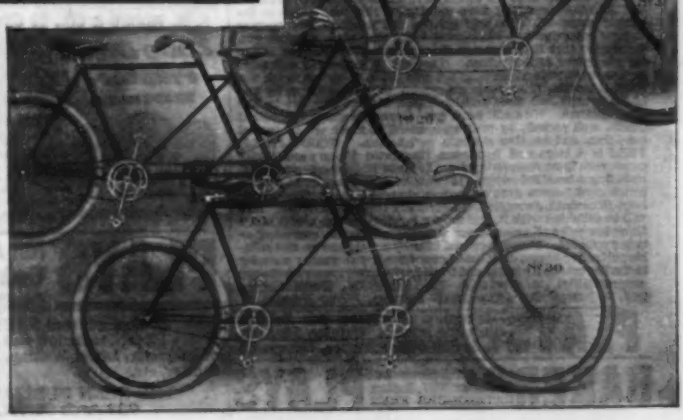

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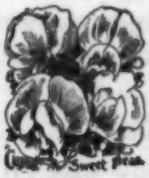

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upon request. New Floral, Silk, Chintz, Delft, Denim Stripe effects, etc., for parlors and bedrooms, **3c. to 10c.** per roll. Beautiful and high-class Tapestry, Damask, Colonial, Louis XIV., Empire, Moorish, Rococo, Embossed Leather, rich Floral and Satin effects, etc., etc., for parlors, dining-rooms and halls, at **10c., 12½c., 15c., 18c.** and up to **25c.** a roll. Write for samples, for these superior papers can only be bought from us or our agents. One price everywhere, and

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An Agent Wanted in every town to sell on commission from our large sample books, showing hundreds of beautiful patterns. We furnish advertising cards and circulars with agent's name on free, and refer customers to them, who write us for samples. The business pays well from the start, for no local dealer can carry one-tenth the variety of designs and colorings, or sell as cheap. A pleasant and profitable business requiring no capital or experience. Over 8,000 agents are now selling our papers every year.

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LINENE Collars and Cuffs.

Stylish, convenient, economical, made of fine cloth and finished alike on both sides. Reversible and give double service.

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CHILDREN TEETHING

FOR OVER FIFTY YEARS.

An Old and Well-Tried Remedy.

MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP

has been used for over **fifty years** by **millions** of **mothers** for their **children while teething,** with **perfect success. It soothes** the **child, softens** the **gums, allays** all **pain; cures wind colic,** and is the best remedy for **diarrhœa.** Sold by Druggists in every part of the world.

BE SURE AND ASK FOR

MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP,

And take no other kind.

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For the Hair.

Absolute Cure for Dandruff. Soothes all Irritation of the Scalp. The only preparation that makes the hair grow by nourishing the roots. Price, 50c. and $1.00 per bottle.

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Send your address for our pamphlet on the Hair, its care and management.

Certificate of an Eminent CHEMIST.

I HAVE MADE A CAREFUL CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF

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AND FIND NOTHING INJURIOUS OR OBJECTIONABLE IN ITS COMPOSITION.

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They quickly restore females to complete health, because they promptly remove obstructions or irregularities of the system.

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Disordered Liver,
they act like magic and are positively

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25 cts. at Drug Stores. Or postpaid of B.F. ALLEN CO., 365 Canal St., New York.

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We have a Trial Package that we send for 10 cents in stamps.

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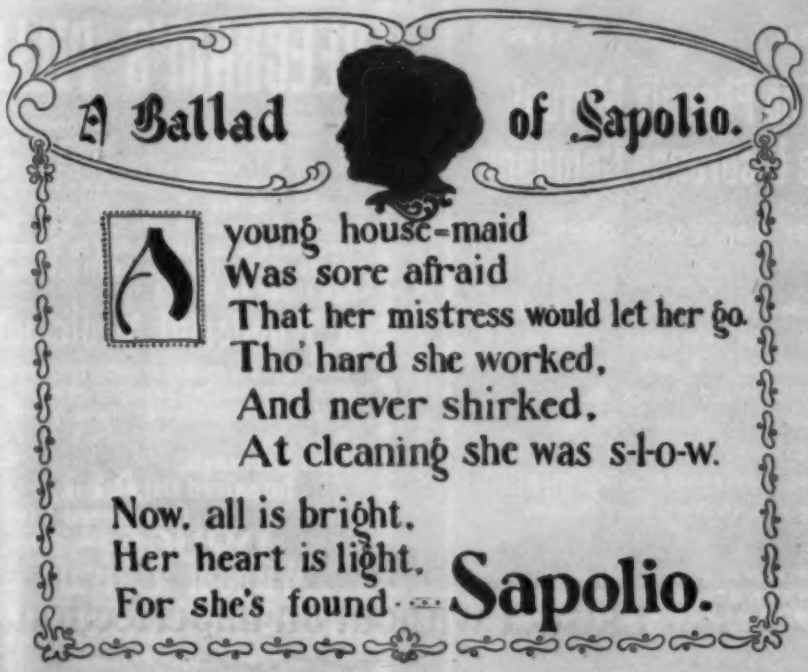
THE WALTER M. LOWNEY CO., 70 PEARL STREET, BOSTON.

NEW YORK RETAIL STORE, 1123 Broadway (25th Street). BOSTON RETAIL STORE, 416 Washington Street.



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At Popular Prices

Crawford Bicycles are thoroughly good in every way. The very latest improvements are combined with the best of materials and workmanship, and the 1898 models are superior to all rivals, regardless of price. You will learn much from the Crawford Catalogue.

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$50 1898 CRAWFORD PRICES. **$35**

Boys' and Girls' Crawfords, $20 to $30; Tandems, $75.

THE CRAWFORD MANUFACTURING CO.,
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Branch Houses at New York, Boston, Chicago, St. Louis, and Baltimore.

Painted aloft in bold letters—
Crowned with the wreath of success—
Victory proclaims the vast superiority of
COLUMBIA CHAINLESS BICYCLES
STANDARD OF THE WORLD.

Machines and Prices Guaranteed.

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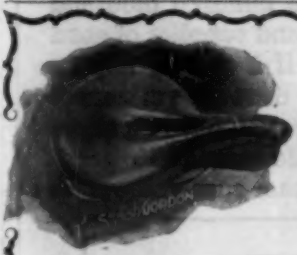

Be On Your Guard

Hundreds of cheap imitations of the Gordon Saddle are being offered every day as the Gordon.

Patent applied for.
THE GORDON TELESCOPING ONE-PIECE COIL SPRING.

NONE ARE GENUINE unless stamped Gordon.

The Gordon is the original Padded Saddle of this type, and is guaranteed to be the superior in Finish, Style, Shape, Comfort, and Quality of all others of this kind.

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Price of Gordon Pattern Saddle . . . 1.00

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Send for **Fancy Poster and Map of U. S.** Multi-colored wall map of U. S. and litho-saddle poster. Enclose 5 4-cent stamps for postage and packing.

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"Sterling" and "Strength" are Synonymous

—Sterling beauty is evident; Sterling swiftness is quickly proven.

STERLING BICYCLES

"BUILT LIKE A WATCH"

are the highest of high grade. The prices are marvelous with the quality so good.

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High-grade wheels within everybody's reach.

STERLING CYCLE WORKS,
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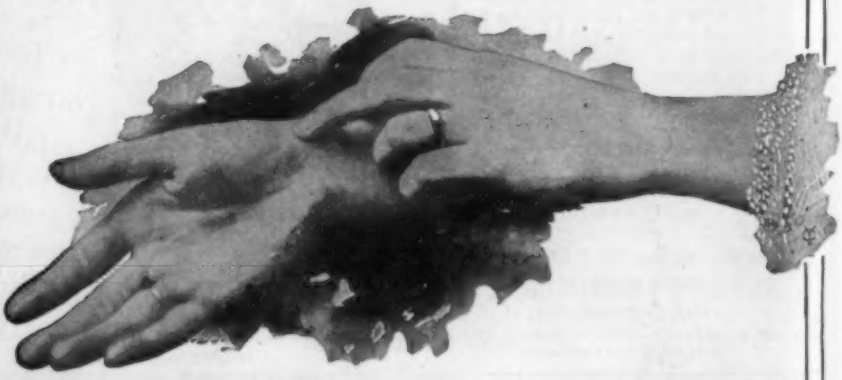
DAME, STODDARD & KENDALL,
374 Washington Street.

Put your finger on your pulse



YOUR HEART beats over one hundred thousand times a day. One hundred thousand supplies of good or bad blood to your brain. Which? If it is bad, impure blood, then your head aches. You are drowsy, yet cannot sleep; tired in the morning as at night; you have no nerve power; your food does not seem to do you much good. Stimulants, tonics, headache powders cannot cure you—

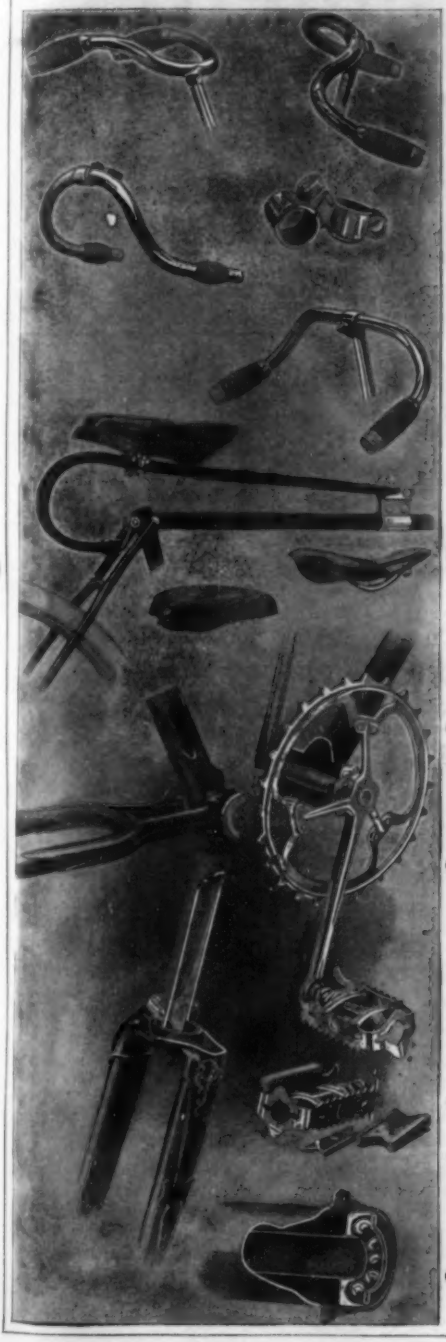
AYER'S SARSAPARILLA

will. It makes the liver, kidneys, skin and bowels perform their proper work. It removes all impurities from the blood. And it makes the blood rich in its life-giving properties.

For biliousness, take Ayer's Pills. Take them with Ayer's Sarsaparilla; one aids the other.

All druggists sell Ayer's Sarsaparilla. $1.00 a bottle, 6 for $5.00.

"NAME, QUALITY, PRICE!"



THESE three points, which it is well to bear in mind, when selecting a bicycle, are especially identified with the popular

Rambler
BICYCLE

"the 19 year old wheel"

Price $60

ITS NAME and ours are well known and respected in all civilized countries. People of refinement will appreciate the fact that Ramblers are sold by legitimate **cycle agents only.**

THE QUALITY is and always has been the very highest. Even our competitors have been generous enough to admit that.

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Our Great '98 Introduction Offer. A fine clear ringing nickel bell with our catalogue of 3,000 cycle and other specialties, only 10 cents (postage 5c. extra), 3 for 25c., $1.05 doz.

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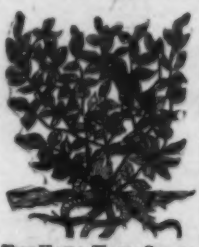
A New Shrub that Cures Kidney and Bladder Diseases, Rheumatism, etc.—Free.



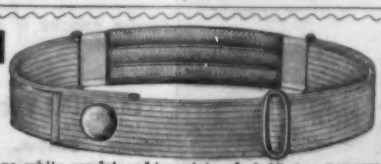
THE KAVA-KAVA SHRUB (*Piper Methysticum.*)

DISORDERS of the Kidneys and Bladder cause BRIGHT'S DISEASE, RHEUMATISM, GRAVEL, PAIN IN THE BACK, FEMALE COMPLAINTS, URINARY DISORDERS, DROPSY, etc. For these diseases a POSITIVE SPECIFIC CURE is found in a new botanical discovery, the wonderful KAVA-KAVA SHRUB, called by botanists, the *piper methysticum*, from the Ganges river, East India. It has the extraordinary record of 1200 hospital cures in 30 days. It acts directly on the Kidneys and cures by draining out of the Blood the poisonous Uric Acid, Urates, Lithates, etc., which cause the diseased conditions.

Rev. W. B. Moore, D. D., of Washington, D. C., testifies in the *Christian Advocate*, that it completely cured him of Kidney and Bladder Disease of many years' standing. Hon. R. C. Wood, of Lowell, Ind., writes that in four weeks the Kava-Kava Shrub cured him of Kidney and Bladder disease of ten years' standing, and Rev. Thomas M. Owen, of West Pawlet, Vt., gives similar testimony. Many ladies testify to its wonderful curative powers in disorders peculiar to womanhood.

That you may judge of the value of this *Great Specific* for yourself, we will send you one Large Case by Mail **FREE**, only asking that when cured yourself you will recommend it to others. ***It is a Sure Specific and cannot fail.*** Address, The Church Kidney Cure Company, No. 409 Fourth Avenue, New York City. Mention this paper.

Don't Bind
BICYCLE AND GOLF GARTER.



For men and women retains its elasticity; absolutely sustains the stocking; is adjustable, and don't bind the leg. Of dealers, or by mail on receipt of price.

SILK, black, blue, orange, white, scarlet, and tan (state color), 35 cts. COTTON (black only), 25 cts.

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Captol

(REGISTERED)

The Unrivaled Hair Tonic

The Captol Hair Tonic is a new and invaluable discovery made by the well-known authority on diseases of the scalp, **Dr. P. J. Eichhoff,** Professor of Dermatology, **Elberfeld,** Germany, and is highly recommended by him as a most effective specific for cleansing, refreshing and strengthening the scalp and stimulating the nerves of the head. Captol completely eradicates scurf and dandruff in 10 to 14 days, and is a sure preventive of baldness. (See Deutsche Medicin. Wochenschrift, 1897, No. 41.)

Sole U. S Agents,
MÜLHENS & KROPFF, - - NEW YORK.

Superfluous Hair Removed

A growth of hair on the upper lip, also occasionally on the neck and arms, is the humiliation of many of my sex.

I suffered for years; tried, by actual count, eleven different advertised remedies, and submitted once to an electrical operation. Nothing was effective until I came across a preparation in a little hair-dressing shop in Paris, six years ago.

It removed the unsightly growth of hair, which had become thick and coarse on account of the frequent applications of advertised stuff, which removed the hair temporarily, but caused it to grow coarser than ever.

When I say that this certain Parisian preparation effected a permanent removal, I mean just as I say—permanent, for it has been six years since I first used it and there is no sign of a renewed growth yet.

I paid six hundred francs for the formula and have earned my living by selling this preparation ever since. I call it simply "Helen Markoe's Depilatory."

United States Health Reports (Vol. iv., No. 38, page 11) officially endorses as follows:

"Upon analysis we find Helen Markoe's preparation to contain such ingredients as will destroy follicle and otherwise permanently remove hair. Is harmless to skin."

I employ no agents, and give each patron my personal attention. Write for sealed private information to

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The Charm of Beauty

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Everywhere Recognized.

Imperial Hair Regenerator

is a great aid to beauty. It restores Gray Hair to its original color, makes Bleached Hair any shade desired. In either gray or bleached hair the natural coloring matter has been destroyed, but in different ways. The Imperial Hair Regenerator supplies the deficiency. It is a perfectly clean and lasting hair coloring. It makes the hair glossy, soft, and beautiful. GENTLEMEN will find it incomparable for the BEARD. Price, $1.50 and $3.00. Send or bring lock of hair. We will restore it Free.

OUR TOILET PREPARATIONS have the same high grade of excellence which characterizes our Imperial Hair Regenerator.

IMPERIAL VIGOROSIS, the discovery of an eminent scientist, has really marvelous qualities as a hair grower. It will arrest falling out of the hair, and stimulate it to a vigorous growth. The most skeptical have but to try it to acknowledge its remarkable virtues. Price, $1.50.

IMPERIAL PEARLADERMA, an exquisite, creamy complexion lotion, renders the skin soft and white. Has a healthy tonic action, cannot be detected, and obviates the use of powder. Price, $1.00.

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IMPERIAL VENUS TINT, a natural delicate liquid Rouge. Price, 50 cents.

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Retail and Application Rooms
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Between 30th and 31st Streets.

Free Sample upon application to
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Readers of this Publication Need Send No Money In Advance

If goods are found as represented and entirely satisfactory, remit $9, wholesale factory price of the couch alone, 30 days after shipment; if not return at our expense

WE OFFER this couch for trial orders because it's one of our greatest bargains. Full size, 29x72 in. Upholstered in finest grade imported figured corduroy or velours, any standard shade or color. **Samples of covering free on request.** Full set best springs. Spring edges and end. Deep biscuit tufted. Best wool fringe. The teapot is extra large, 10-in. high, 6-in. diameter. Fine stipple finish and elaborately engraved. If you prefer, we will send, in lieu of the teapot, **a syrup cup and plate, butter dish, or sugar bowl of the same high-grade ware,** and fully warranted for ten years. Order to-day. Don't put it off. All that's necessary is to say that you're a reader of this publication (this is important), that you accept our Sample Offer No. 4 on 30 days' trial, state color of upholstering and premium desired, and give full shipping directions.

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The N. C. & Rubber Mfg. Co.,
189 Huron St., TOLEDO, OHIO. Catalogue Free.
RUBBER GOODS

Mageot
SURE CURE FOR ILL SMELLING FEET.
PRICE 50¢ SEALED POST PAID. MAGEOT CHEMICAL CO. BRAZIL, IND.

20 LBS. OF FAT.

Dr. Edison's Obesity Pills and Reducing Tablets

FOR MEN AND WOMEN,

Reduced Mrs. Mershon, Lima, Ohio, and made her well and more comely.

Mrs. Mershon writes as follows, under the date of May 11, 1896, from her residence at 156 S. Jackson Street, Lima, Ohio:

"I have been taking your Pills and Reducing Tablets since June 1, 1895, and have been reduced 148 pounds in weight and twenty-one inches around the waist, and am better in health than I have been for years. Dr. Edison's Obesity Treatment cured me of heart trouble, sick headache, and other aches and pains. Yours, MRS. H. MERSHON."

MRS. H. MERSHON.

Dr. Edison's Obesity Pills and Reducing Tablets are perfectly harmless, and strengthen and invigorate all who use them. Obesity Pills, $1.50 a bottle—3 bottles, $4.00—enough for one treatment. Reducing Tablets, $2.00 a box. Dr. Edison's Remedies are sweet, palatable, and handy to take. Obesity is sometimes caused, and is usually accompanied, by digestive derangements, rheumatism and heart disease. Loring's Germ-Killer Remedies will cure you and help you to get thin. Dyspepsia Tablets, 50 cents a box; Laxative Tablets, 50 cents a box; Rheumatism Tablets, 50 cents a box; Heart Tablets, $2.00 a box. We send free, "How to Cure Obesity," 50 portraits and numerous other illustrations; invaluable information. Fat folks, send for it. Special Remedies for big, fat men. Letters addressed by ladies to Mrs. Dr. Amy M. Henry, who has charge of our Woman's Department, will be opened and answered by Mrs. Henry or her chief assistant. Samples Free. We forward goods promptly. No printing on our envelopes. Mention department number below.

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COSTS YOU NOTHING TO TRY IT.

THE NATURAL BODY BRACE

Cures Female Weakness, Restores Health and Vigor, Makes Walking and Work Easy.

We receive thousands of letters similar to this:

Owensboro, Ky., Jan. 1, 1897.

"I wouldn't be without my brace, for it has cured me of all female troubles. Had suffered twelve years with laceration, ulceration, etc., with backache, headache, bearing down, constipation, painful menstruation, ovarian pains, etc. Have had Brace a year, and haven't been in bed an hour from any illness since.

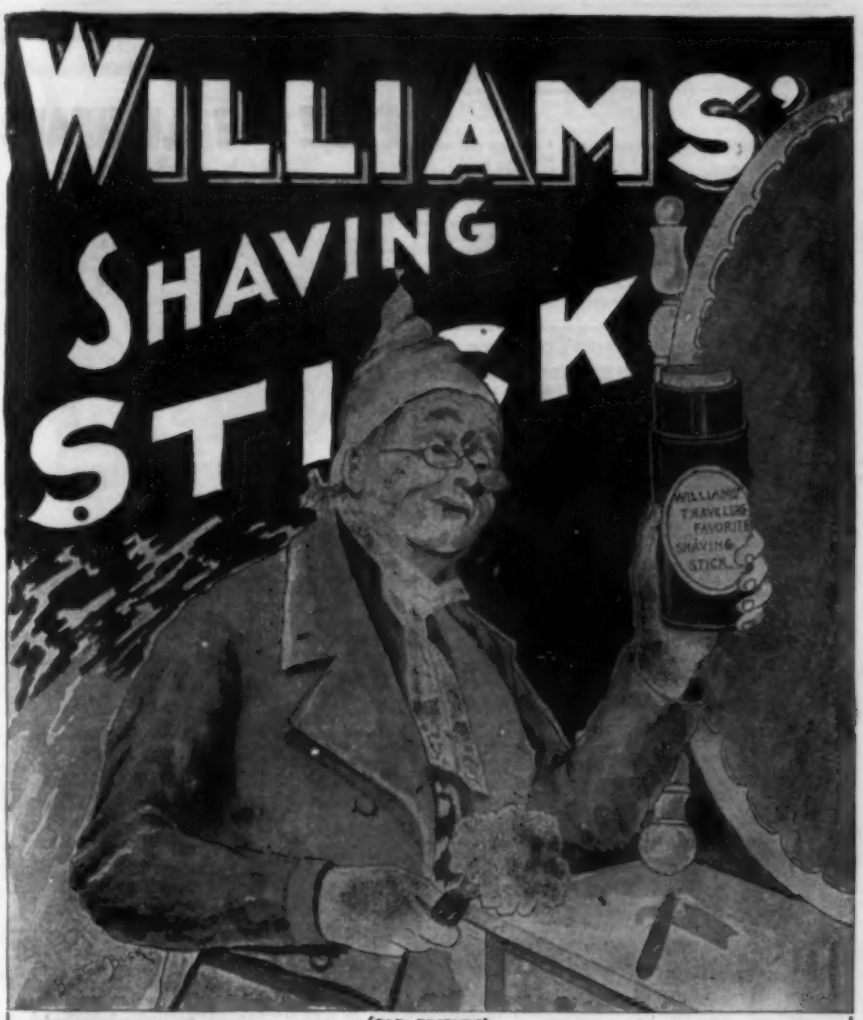
Mrs. J. K. Hunter says the same and you can use our names if you wish. A young lady friend said to me not long ago: 'I don't care where I have a pain, the Brace relieves it.' Other friends have told me of their delight with the Brace."

MRS. AUSTIN BERRY.

Money Refunded if Brace is not satisfactory. Send for full information with illustrated book, free.

The Natural Body Brace Co.,
HOWARD O. RASH, Mgr.
Box 50, Salina, Kansas.

Every Woman anticipating Motherhood should have this Brace.



(OLD FRIENDS)

WILLIAMS' SHAVING STICK is a friend that filleth the heart of the shaver with joy. In a perfect shaving soap, you must have:

LATHER that's Big, and Thick, and Creamy; that will soften the beard and make easy work for the razor:

LATHER that's Soothing, Healing, Refreshing. These qualities have been winning friends for **Williams' Shaving Soaps,** for more than half a century, all over the world. "The **Only Real** Shaving Soaps."

Williams' Shaving Soaps are sold everywhere, but sent by mail if your dealer does not supply you.

Williams' Shaving Stick, 25 cents. **Luxury Shaving Tablet, 25 cents.**
Genuine Yankee Shaving Soap, 10 cents. **Swiss Violet Shaving Cream, 50 cents.**
Williams' Shaving Soap (Barber's), 6 round cakes, 1 lb., 40 cts. Exquisite also for toilet.
Trial cake for 2c. stamp.

THE J. B. WILLIAMS CO., Glastonbury, Conn.

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An old physician, retired from practise, having had placed in his hands by an East India missionary the formula of a simple vegetable remedy for the speedy and permanent cure of **Consumption, Bronchitis, Asthma, Catarrh,** and all Throat and Lung Affections, also a positive and radical cure for **Nervous Debility** and all Nervous Complaints, after having tested its **wonderful curative** powers in thousands of cases, has felt it his duty to make it known to his suffering fellows. Actuated by this motive and a desire to relieve human suffering, I will send free of charge, to all who desire it, this recipe in German, French, or English, with full directions for preparing and using. Sent by mail by addressing with stamp, naming this paper. **W. A. NOYES, 820 Power's Block, Rochester, N. Y.**

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Permanently Cured
INSANITY PREVENTED BY
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Positive cure for all *Nervous Diseases, Fits, Epilepsy, Spasms, and St. Vitus' Dance.* No Fits or Nervousness after first day's use. **Treatise and $2 trial bottle free** to Fit patients, they paying express charges only when received. Send to Dr. Kline, Ltd., Bellevue Institute of Medicine, 931 Arch St., E., Philadelphia, Pa.

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(A SWELL AFFAIR)

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TOOTHACHE GUM

STOPS TOOTHACHE INSTANTLY.
The Only Perfect Remedy for Toothache.
This is Not a Chewing Gum.
Ask for **DENT'S**—Take no other.
Sold by all Druggists, or by mail 15c.
C. S. DENT & CO., Detroit, Mich.

FREE TO BALD HEADS

"The Crowning Glory of Women is Her Hair."

We will mail on application **Free** and **Full Information** how to grow hair upon a Baldhead, stop Falling Hair and remove Scalp Diseases. As Dandruff, Eczema, Tetter and Falling Hair lead to Baldness, our **FREE INFORMATION** is indeed a most **desirable gift** to any person so afflicted. Write at once, and we will send it to you prepaid, **FREE.**

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LAUDANUM, and all DRUG HABITS. ONLY PERFECT, PAINLESS, HOME CURE KNOWN. TRIAL SAMPLE FREE. ST. JAMES SOCIETY, 1181 Broadway, NEW YORK

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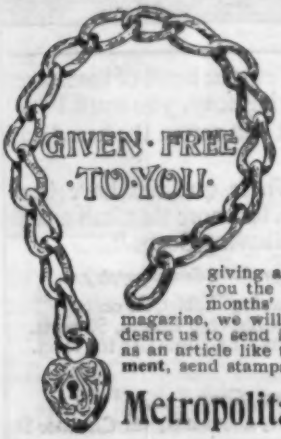
RELIABLE MEN in every locality, local or traveling, to introduce a new discovery, and keep our show card tacked up on trees, fences, and bridges throughout town and country; steady employment, commission or salary; **$65 PER MONTH AND EXPENSES,** not to exceed $2.50 per day; money deposited in any bank at start if desired; write for particulars. **THE GLOBE MEDICAL ELECTRIC CO., Buffalo, N. Y.**

COSTS YOU NOTHING.



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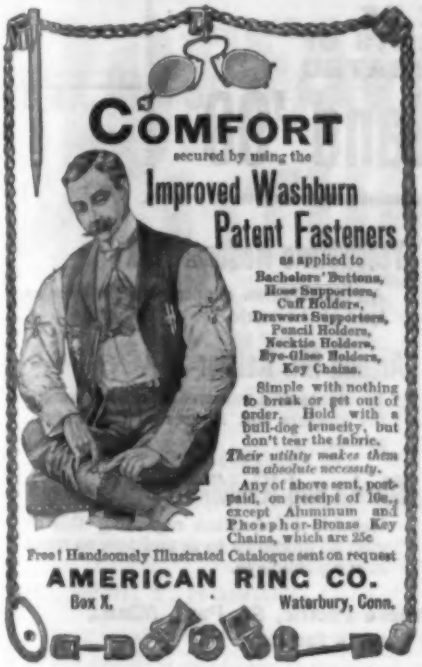

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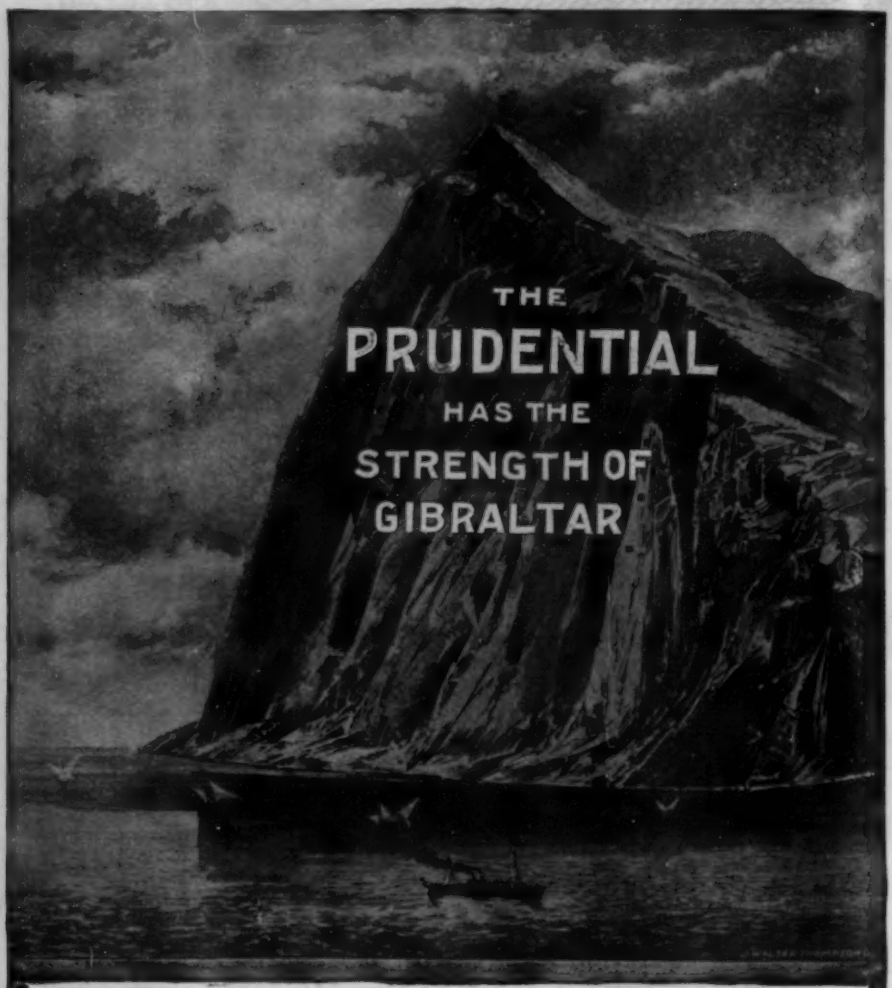

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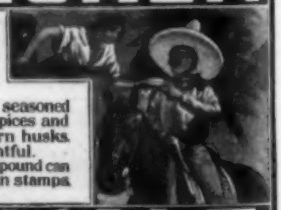

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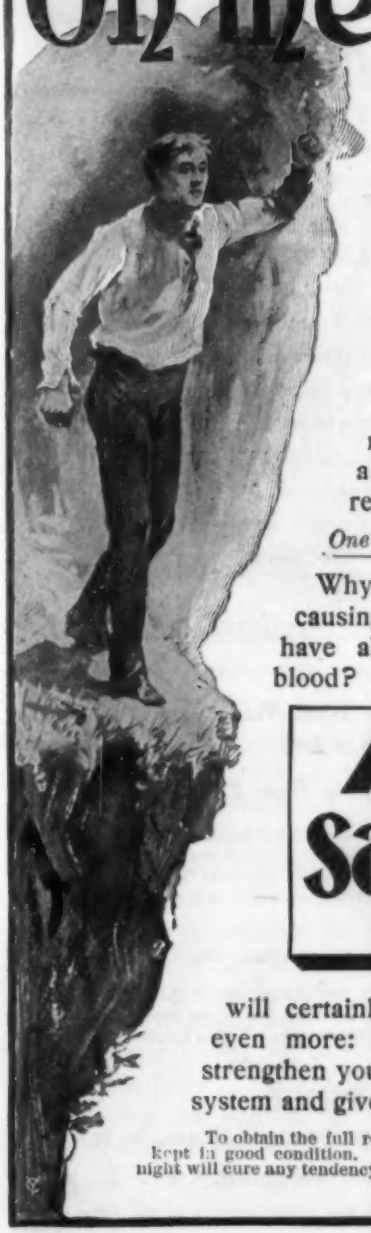

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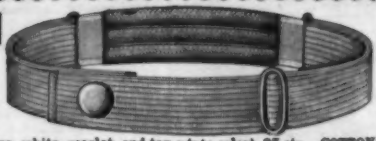

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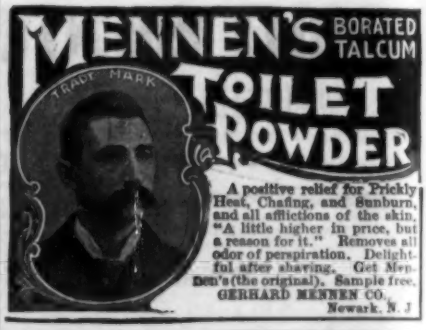

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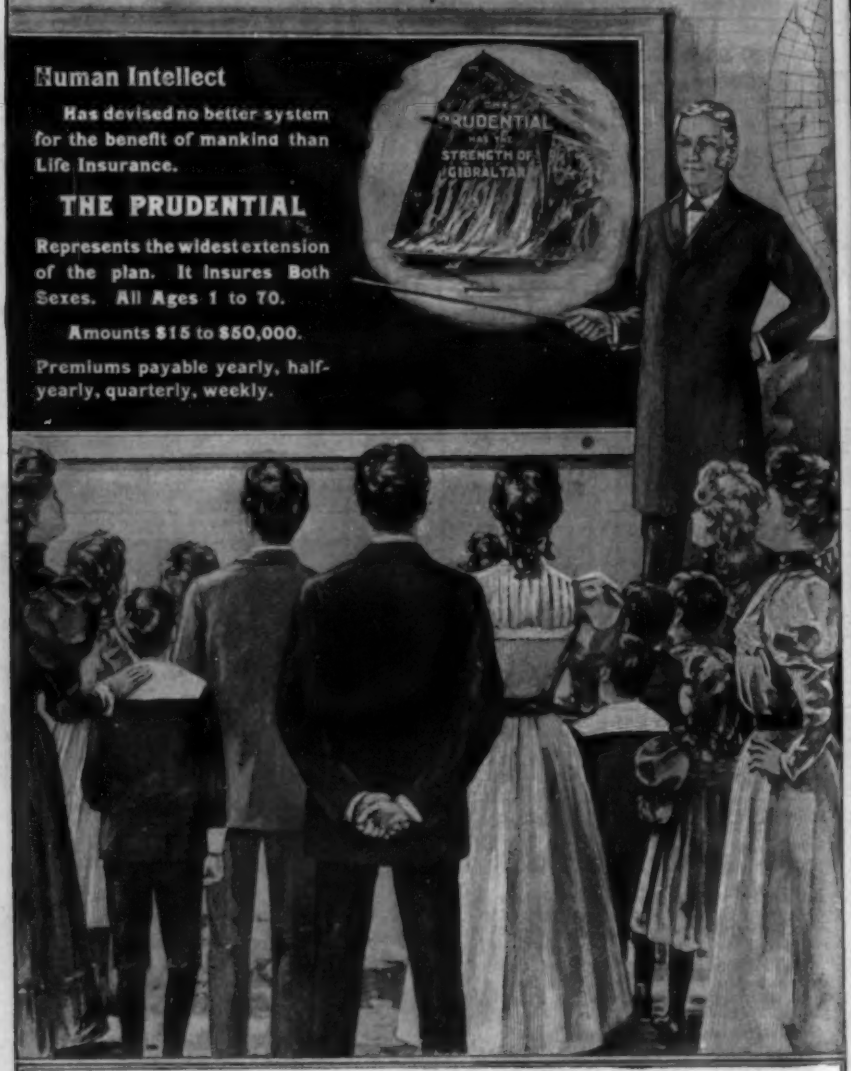

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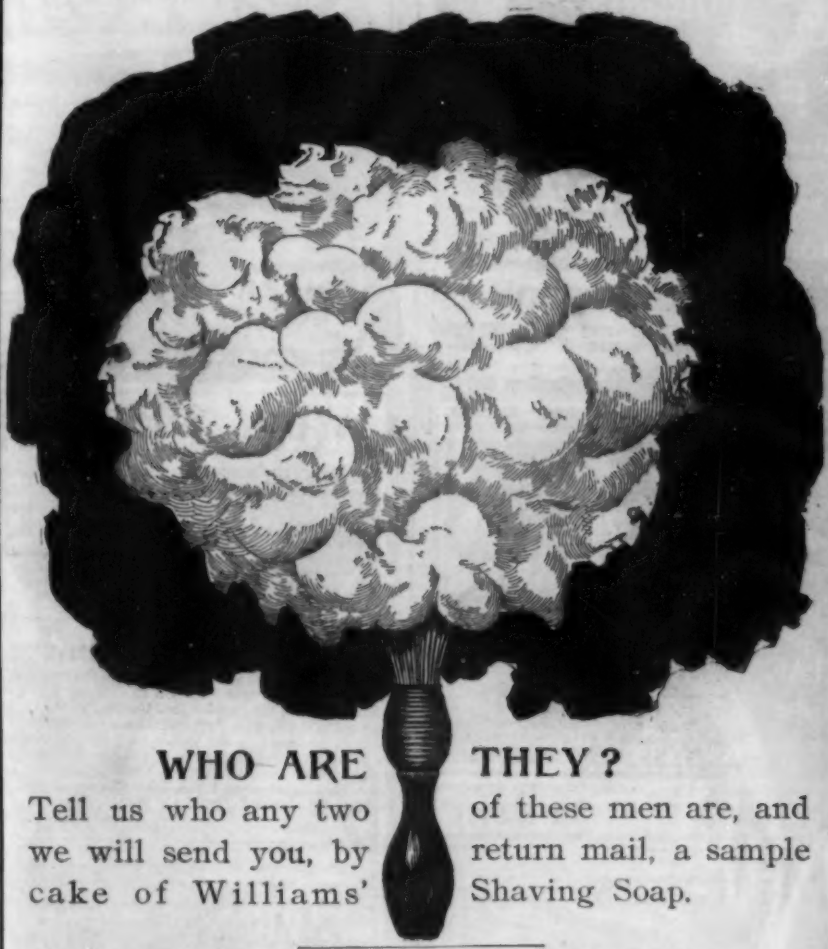

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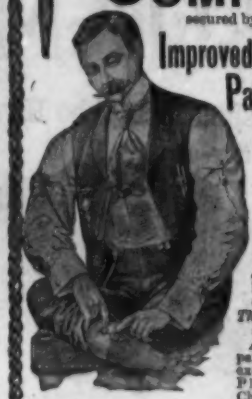

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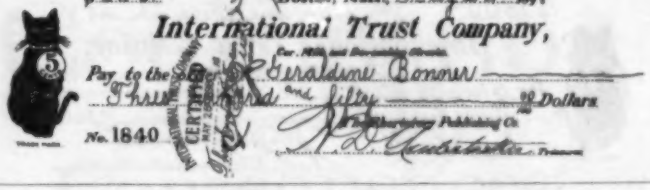

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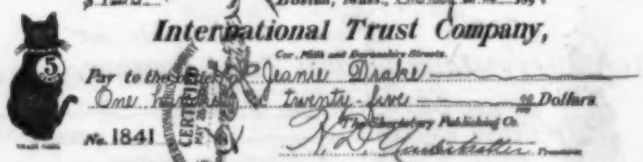

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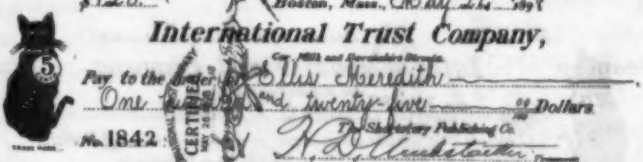

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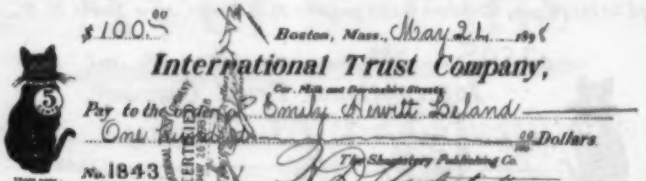

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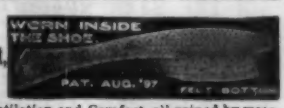

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This is a large size express wagon with removable sliding seat, welded steel tires, steel axles, all hard wood, handsomely finished wood dasher whip socket and whip. Wheels are made of selected stock and have turned spokes and plated hub bands. A cart that every boy should be proud to own. We offer to make you a free gift of one of these carts if you will give us just two hours of your time. We pay all the express charges on it and deliver it right at your home anywhere in the United States, east of the Mississippi River. Send us your address on a postal if you want a cart.

TILDEN TEA CO., BROCKTON, MASS.

'TIS THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER,

Oh! long may it wave,
O'er the land of the free and
The home of the brave!

A gold plated lapel button in **red, white** and **blue** enamel, the American flag shape of a bow knot. Price by mail **TWO CENTS.** Three by mail (which make ladies' shirt waist set) **FIVE CENTS.** Address,

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Superfluous Hair Removed

A growth of hair on the upper lip, also occasionally on the neck and arms, is the humiliation of many of my sex.

I suffered for years; tried, by actual count, eleven different advertised remedies, and submitted once to an electrical operation. Nothing was effective until I came across a preparation in a little hair-dressing shop in Paris, six years ago.

It removed the unsightly growth of hair, which had become thick and coarse on account of the frequent applications of advertised stuff, which removed the hair temporarily, but caused it to grow coarser than ever.

When I say that this certain Parisian preparation effected a permanent removal, I mean just as I say—permanent, for it has been six years since I first used it and there is no sign of a renewed growth yet.

I paid six hundred francs for the formula and have earned my living by selling this preparation ever since. I call it simply "Helen Markoe's Depilatory."

United States Health Reports (Vol. iv., No. 28, page 11) officially endorses as follows:

"Upon analysis we find Helen Markoe's preparation to contain such ingredients as will destroy follicle and otherwise permanently remove hair. Is harmless to skin."

I employ no agents, and give each patron my personal attention. Write for sealed private information to

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"Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup."

CHILDREN TEETHING

FOR OVER FIFTY YEARS.

An Old and Well-Tried Remedy.

MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP

has been used for over **fifty years** by **millions of mothers** for their **children while teething**, with **perfect success. It soothes** the **child, softens** the **gums, allays all pain; cures wind colic**, and is the best remedy for **diarrhœa.** Sold by Druggists in every part of the world.

BE SURE AND ASK FOR

MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP,

And take no other kind.

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS A BOTTLE.

LOST 40 lbs. OF FAT.

Are you too stout?

If so, why not reduce your weight and be comfortable? Obesity is a disease and predisposes to Heart Trouble, Paralysis, Liver Disease, Rheumatism, Apoplexy, etc., and is not only dangerous, but extremely annoying to people of refined taste. We do not care how many reduction remedies you may have taken without success, we have a simple treatment that will reduce weight, as thousands can testify. The following are a few of the thousands who have been reduced in weight and greatly improved in health by its use. **Reduced**

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MRS. HELEN WEBER, of Marietta, O., says: "*It reduced my weight 40 lbs. without sickness or any inconvenience whatever.*"

We are going to give away barrels and

Barrels of Sample Boxes Free

just to prove how effective, pleasant, and safe this remedy is to reduce weight. If you want one, send us your name and address at once. IT COSTS YOU NOTHING TO TRY IT. Each box is sent in a plain sealed package with no advertising on it to indicate what it contains. Correspondence strictly confidential.

Hall Chemical Co., K. A. Box, St. Louis, Mo.

COSTS YOU NOTHING TO TRY IT.

THE NATURAL BODY BRACE

Cures Female Weakness, Restores Health and Vigor, Makes Walking and Work Easy.

We receive thousands of letters similar to this:

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"I wouldn't be without my brace, for it has cured me of all female troubles. Had suffered twelve years with laceration, ulceration, etc., with backache, headache, bearing down, constipation, painful menstruation, ovarian pains, etc. Have had Brace a year, and haven't been in bed an hour from any illness since. Mrs. J. K. Hunter says the same and you can use our names if you wish. A young lady friend said to me not long ago: 'I don't care where I have a pain, the Brace relieves it.' Other friends have told me of their delight with the Brace."
MRS. AUSTIN BERRY.

Money Refunded if Brace is not satisfactory. Send for full information with illustrated book, free.

The Natural Body Brace Co.,
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Every Woman anticipating Motherhood should have this Brace.

Don't Bind BICYCLE AND GOLF GARTER.

For men and women retains its elasticity; absolutely sustains the stocking; is adjustable, and don't bind the leg. Of dealers, or by mail on receipt of price.

SILK, black, blue, orange, white, scarlet, and tan (state color), 35 cts. COTTON (black only), 25 cts.

C. E. Conover Co., N. Y. Wholesale Agents. **BLAKESLEY NOVELTY CO., Mfrs., BOX 10, BRISTOL, CONN.**

Genuine Opal Ring Free

We give you free this Handsome Genuine Opal Ring, best gold plate, warranted 2 years, if you sell only **15 Stick Pin Souvenirs of War** and the **"MAINE"** at **10 cents each**; trial subscription to new illus. patriotic Magazine free with each pin. Don't send money, just name and address, and say you will return pins or money by mail within 2 weeks. We send pins by return mail, and ring when you remit $1.50.

THE COLUMBIAN, Boston, Mass.

CURE YOUR BOY OF THE CIGARETTE HABIT.

Anti-Cigarette—a harmless, vegetable remedy, will cure the habit in 10 days. Can be taken in coffee without discovery. Price 50c. by mail. Phœnix Chemical Co., Quincy, Ill.

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ASTHMA
Dr. HAYES, Buffalo, N. Y.

HAIR ON LADIES' FACES.

Mahler's Liquid Hair Dissolver removes root and branch in three minutes. **$1.00 Bottle FREE.** Inclose 10c., silver or stamps.
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The Barta Press,
Boston, Mass.

BUFFALO LITHIA WATER

Uric Acid Poisoning Associated with Nervous Prostration, Insomnia, Epilepsy and Insanity.

NATURE'S ANTIDOTE.

William A. Hammond, M. D., *Washington, D. C., Surgeon-General U. S. Army (retired), formerly Professor of Diseases of the Mind and Nervous System in the University of New York, etc.:*

"It is well known that many cases of diseases of the **nervous system** are complicated with **Lithæmia,** and that unless this condition is removed a cure is very often retarded, and not infrequently entirely prevented. It is quite commonly the case that in **Cerebral Congestion** producing **Insomnia, Nervous Prostration, resulting from over-mental work or much emotional disturbance,** and in **Epilepsy** (to say nothing of **many cases of insanity**) an **excess of uric acid in the blood** is often observed. **This state appears to be altogether independent of the character of the food,** for **no matter how careful the physician may be in regard to the diet of his patient, the lithæmic condition continues.** I have tried to overcome this persistence by the use of **phosphate of ammonia** and **other so-called solvents for uric acid, but without notable effect.**

"Several years ago, however, I began to treat such cases with **BUFFALO LITHIA WATER** **with a result that was as astonishing to me as it was beneficial to the patient,** so that now **in all cases of nervous diseases under my charge in which there is an excess of uric acid in the blood, I use the BUFFALO LITHIA WATER in large quantities.**

"I have also for some time made use of the **BUFFALO LITHIA WATER** in cases of affections of the **nervous system,** complicated with **Bright's Disease of the Kidneys,** or with a **gouty diathesis. The results have been eminently satisfactory. Lithia** has for many years been a favorite remedy with me in like cases, but the BUFFALO WATER **certainly acts better than an extemporaneous solution** of the **Lithia Salts,** and is, moreover, better borne by the stomach; and as a matter of prime importance it is not to be forgotten that the composition of the **BUFFALO LITHIA WATER** is such, and the **experience of its use so complete, that no doubt exists of its great power, not only as a solvent for calculi already in the bladder, but of the diseases of such calculi existing in the blood."**

BUFFALO LITHIA WATER

is for sale by Druggists and Grocers. Book of testimonials free on application.

PROPRIETOR, BUFFALO LITHIA SPRINGS, VA.

Springs open for guests from June 15th to October 1st.

OF INTEREST TO ALL READERS.

A few months ago we organized the **WOMEN'S IDEAS CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION**. It was successful from the start and we have now enrolled many thousand members. The interest has become widespread and we propose this coming month to make special inducements to secure new members. The entire cost of membership is 25 cents which entitles the applicant to a certificate of membership, free information and advice of our employment department which secures paying positions to our members for home work like envelope addressing, flower making, newspaper work, art, etc. Our Astrological Department conducted by **ÆOLIS**, the renowned astrologer, who gives every member a horoscope reading, (give exact date of birth so we can send same with present), subscription to our magazine, of our literary, social, medical and other features. There are no other dues or costs of any nature.

OUR SPECIAL GIFT TO NEW MEMBERS.

To influence new applicants we propose presenting everyone sending 25 cents (membership fee) one of our beautiful Solid Gold Shell Dageria Diamond Rings. The Dageria Diamond has few equals and forever presents a most beautiful appearance, glistening in the light and sending forth its superb scintillations like a minature sun. It is an attraction for the eyes of all beholders, a jewel for either sex. You can wash the Dageria Gems and wear them forever, as they will always retain their brilliancy. In ordering state size by sending strip of paper that fits around finger.

A HANDSOME LA TOSCA SILK FINISHED DRESS

State shade desired, (for Evening, Street or Mourning wear) will also be given to every member sending us names of ten friends who they think will become members to our Association. Samples and particulars sent with ring and other benefits.

MALE MEMBERS.—Although most of our members are women, we have many hundreds of male members, so heartily extend our benefits, premiums and use of departments to all male applicants.

INSTRUCTIONS.—Remit membership fee, 25 cents by silver carefully wrapped or one cent stamps which covers entire cost of Membership Certificate, Subscription to Magazine, our Valuable Gifts, Recipes, Astrological Horoscope, Employment Bureau, and all other advantages of Association without any further cost. Anyone dissatisfied can have 25 cents refunded, as our methods are honest and conducted on just principles as our list of members from every part of America can testify. Reference: Dun's or Bradstreet's Mercantile Agencies, any bank in Philadelphia or any newspaper in United States. Address

WOMEN'S IDEAS CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION, Women's Ideas Buildings, Philadelphia, Penna.

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41 lbs. of Fat

Dr. Edison's Obesity Pills and Reducing Tablets Rid Mrs. Mary Elliott Jaynes of 41 Pounds of Fat in Six Weeks—Free Samples.

"I WAS GROWING FLESHY VERY FAST," writes Mrs. Mary Elliott Jaynes, from her home on Fifth Ave., New York, "and knew I must have relief or get past help. I consulted my physician, and he told me Dr. Edison's Obesity Pills and Reducing Tablets would reduce my fat and weight safely and permanently. These remedies took off thirty-six pounds in six weeks and cured me of chronic liver trouble, besides restoring my form entirely."

Dr. Edison's **Obesity Pills** and **Reducing Tablets** are perfectly harmless, and strengthen and invigorate all who use them. **Obesity Pills**, $1.50 a bottle; 3 bottles, $4—enough for one treatment. **Reducing Tablets**, $2 a box. Dr. Edison's Remedies are sweet, palatable, and handy to take. Obesity is sometimes caused and is usually accompanied by digestive derangements, rheumatism, and heart disease.

Dr. Edison's Obesity Remedies cure all those chronic diseases which cause and accompany Obesity.

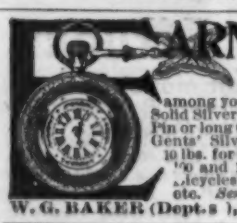
Tell your fat husbands and brothers that we have

SPECIAL REMEDIES FOR BIG FAT MEN.

Letters addressed by ladies to Mrs. Dr. Amy M. Henry, who has charge of our Woman's Department, will be opened and answered by Mrs. Henry or her chief assistant. Samples Free. We forward goods promptly. No printing on our envelopes. Mention department number below.

LORING & CO., Dept. 139,

3 Hamilton Place, Boston; 42 W. 22d Street, New York City; 58-60 Wabash Avenue, Chicago.



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W. G. BAKER (Dept. 8), Springfield, Mass.

SPECIAL

Chronic Eczema and all itching and scaly skin diseases positively cured. Send 2c. stamp for free sample, or 25c. for original box. Also special remedies for Epilepsy, Dyspepsia, Heart Palpitation, Asthma, Catarrh, Rheumatism, Malaria, Kidney Trouble, Neuralgia, Dropsy, and Piles. Correspondence solicited. Address,

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LOVELY GOLD RING FREE!

I will give a beautiful Solid Gold finished Ring, warranted, to any person for selling 10 "Old Glory" Scarf Pins at 10 cents each. These beautiful Pins are enameled in Correct Colors and I send them assorted designs. The symbol of patriotism is the Stars and Stripes, and every person, male or female, should wear one of these Pins. Send your name and address and I will mail Pins postpaid, you sell them and remit $1.00 and I will mail you the Ring. I will take Pins back if you cannot sell. Address at once, E. JONES, 69 Pearl St., Boston, Mass.

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One year, postage paid, for 50 cents.

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As Americans are likely to spend the summer in the United States they will want to find the most comfortable means of reaching "America's Great Resorts." This being the case, their thoughts will naturally turn to "America's Greatest Railroad," the New York Central. More summer and health resorts are located along its lines and reached by its through Parlor and Sleeping Cars than any other railroad.

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OLD GLORY SHOW YOUR COLORS. Finely Woven Silk Badge 5c. by mail; 3 for 15c.; 50c. doz.; 100 for $2. Bookseller for holidays and fairs. L. N. Cushman, 34 Oliver St., Boston, Mass.

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All Along Shore.
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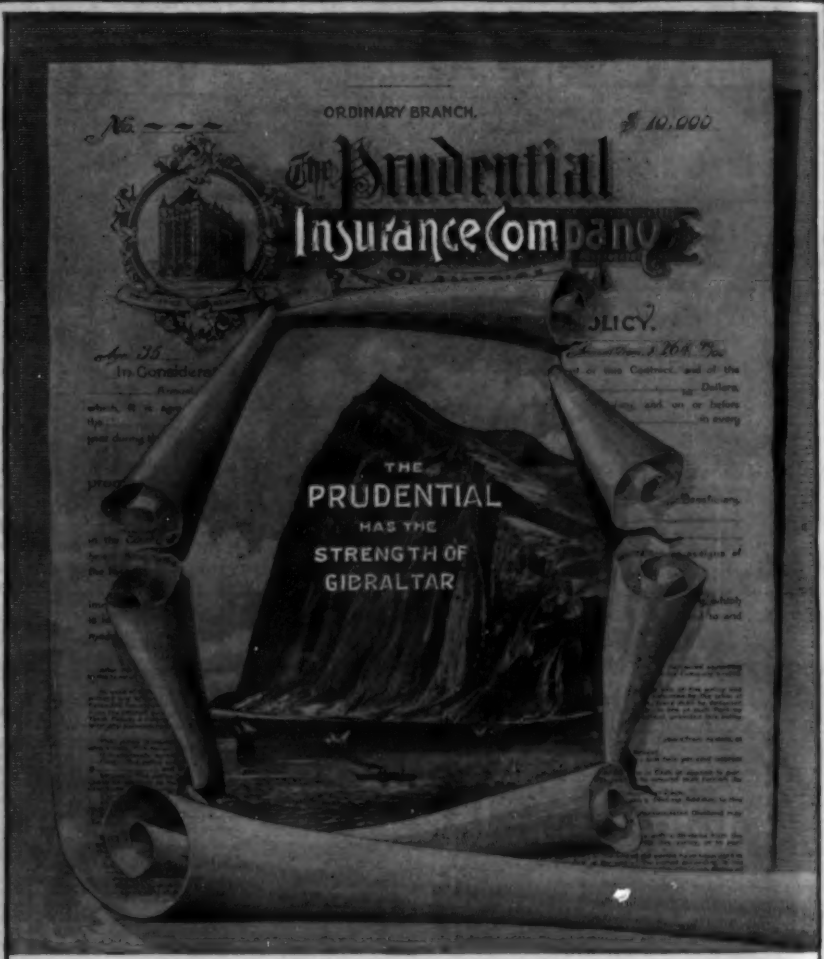

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a man can make
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in case of his death,
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For the Hair.

Absolute Cure for Dandruff. Soothes all Irritation of the Scalp. The only preparation that makes the hair grow by nourishing the roots. Price, 50c. and $1.00 per bottle.

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Send your address for our pamphlet on the Hair, its care and management.

Certificate of an Eminent CHEMIST.

I HAVE MADE A CAREFUL CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF

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AND FIND NOTHING INJURIOUS OR OBJECTIONABLE IN ITS COMPOSITION.

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Comeliness and competency conjoined constitute the

Our new Cycle Lamp has a very brief but pertinent story to tell, thus:

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A Circular giving its strong points is yours for the asking.

R. E. DIETZ COMPANY,
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OVER **104,000** NOW IN USE.

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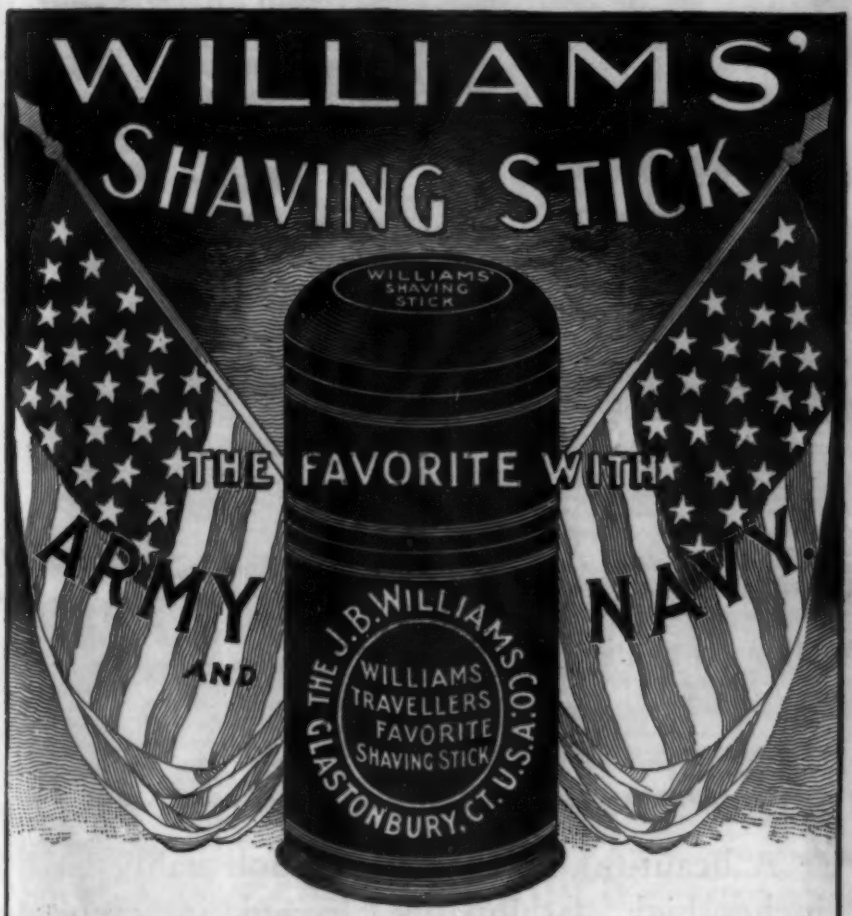

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Williams' Shaving Soaps are sold everywhere, but sent by mail if your dealer does not supply you.

Williams' Shaving Stick, 25 cents. **Luxury Shaving Tablet, 25 cents.**
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Williams' Shaving Soap (Barbers'), 6 round cakes, 1 lb., 40 cts. Exquisite also for toilet.
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THE J. B. WILLIAMS CO., Glastonbury, Conn.

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PURE WHISKEY

No other Distiller sells to consumer DIRECT.

DIRECT FROM DISTILLER TO CONSUMER.

$3.20 FOUR FULL QTS., Express Prepaid

Saves Middlemen's Profits. Prevents Adulteration.

For 30 years we have distilled the best Whiskey made and sold it direct to consumer. We have thousands of customers in every State and want more, we therefore make the following

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We will send 4 full quart bottles of Hayner's 7-Year-Old Double Copper Distilled Rye for $3.20, express prepaid, shipped in plain package, no marks to indicate contents. If not found satisfactory when received, return it at our expense; we will return your $3.20.

Such Whiskey can't be had elsewhere for less than $5.

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P. S.—Orders for Ariz., Col., Cal., Idaho, Mont., Nev., N. Mex., Ore., Utah, Wash., Wyo., must call for 20 qts. by freight, prepaid.

We guarantee above firm will do as they agree.—*Ed.*

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Arnica Tooth Soap

Preserves and whitens the teeth, strengthens the gums, sweetens the breath. Is antiseptic, cooling, refreshing. The standard dentifrice for 30 years. 25c at all druggists or by mail.

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is economy compared with buying any other than

"HOLDFAST" Aluminum Hairpins

....The only hairpins that stay where you put them and neither fall out, warp, split, nor break.

Dealers may offer you cheap imitations to make more profit. Do not be deceived, but demand the "Holdfast," and insist on getting them.

They look like this

Size, 2¾ inches; polished or with black tops. Also 3¼ and 4½ inches, with heavy prongs, for braid or bonnet use. SOLD BY FIRST-CLASS DEALERS.

If your dealer will not supply you send 10 cents in stamps for sample of six small or one large.

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Box K, BLOOMFIELD, N. J.

Also makers of Stewart's Duplex Safety Pins.

Earn a Camera

by selling 10 lbs. Baker's Teas, etc., or sell 25 lbs. for a Silver Watch and Chain; 50 lbs. for a Gold Watch and Chain; 60 lbs. for a Boys' or Girls' Bicycle; 100 or 150 lbs. for the larger size Bicycles; 6 lbs. for an Electric Battery. Express prepaid.

Write for Particulars.

Size 6¼ x 4 x 4. Takes 5 x 8 Pictures.

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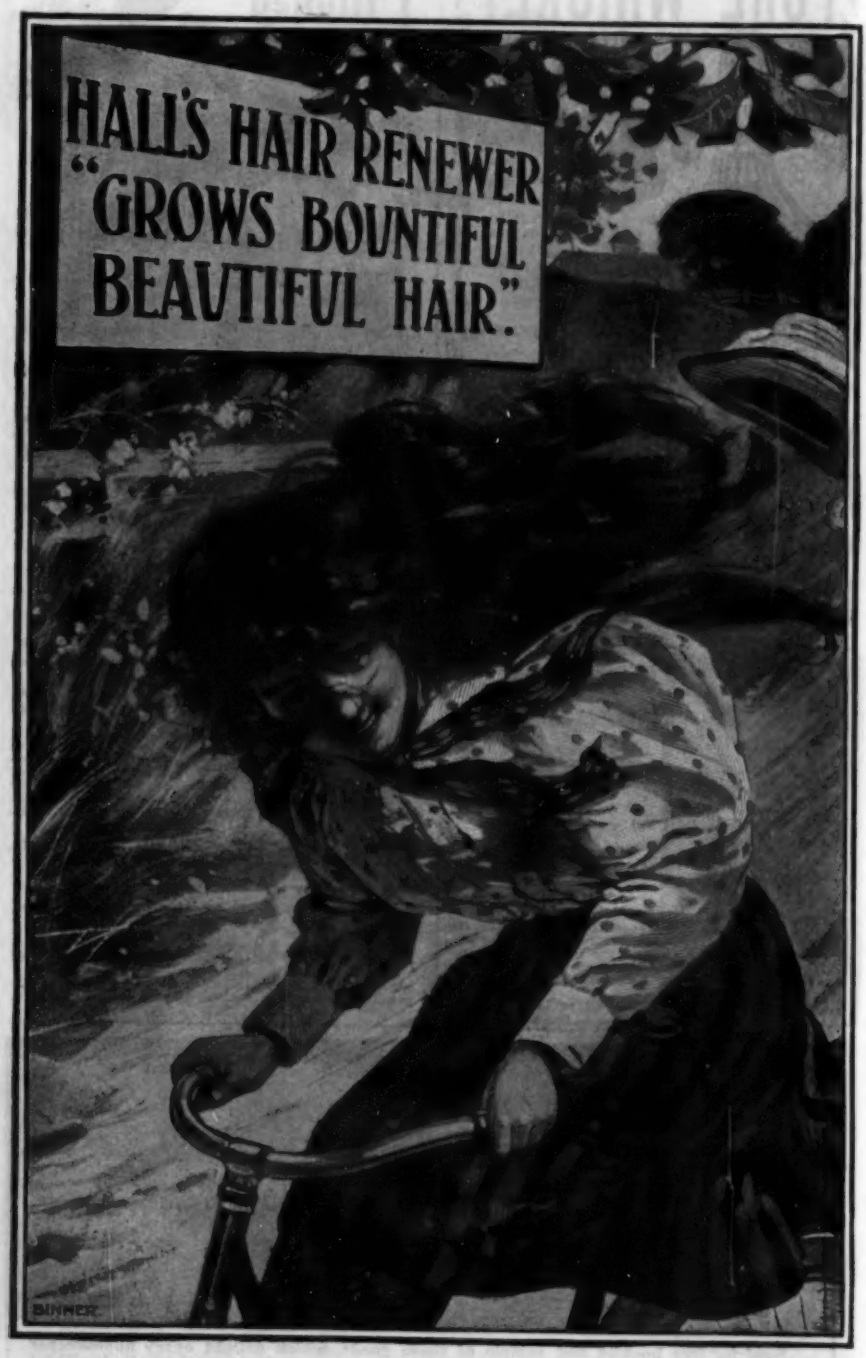
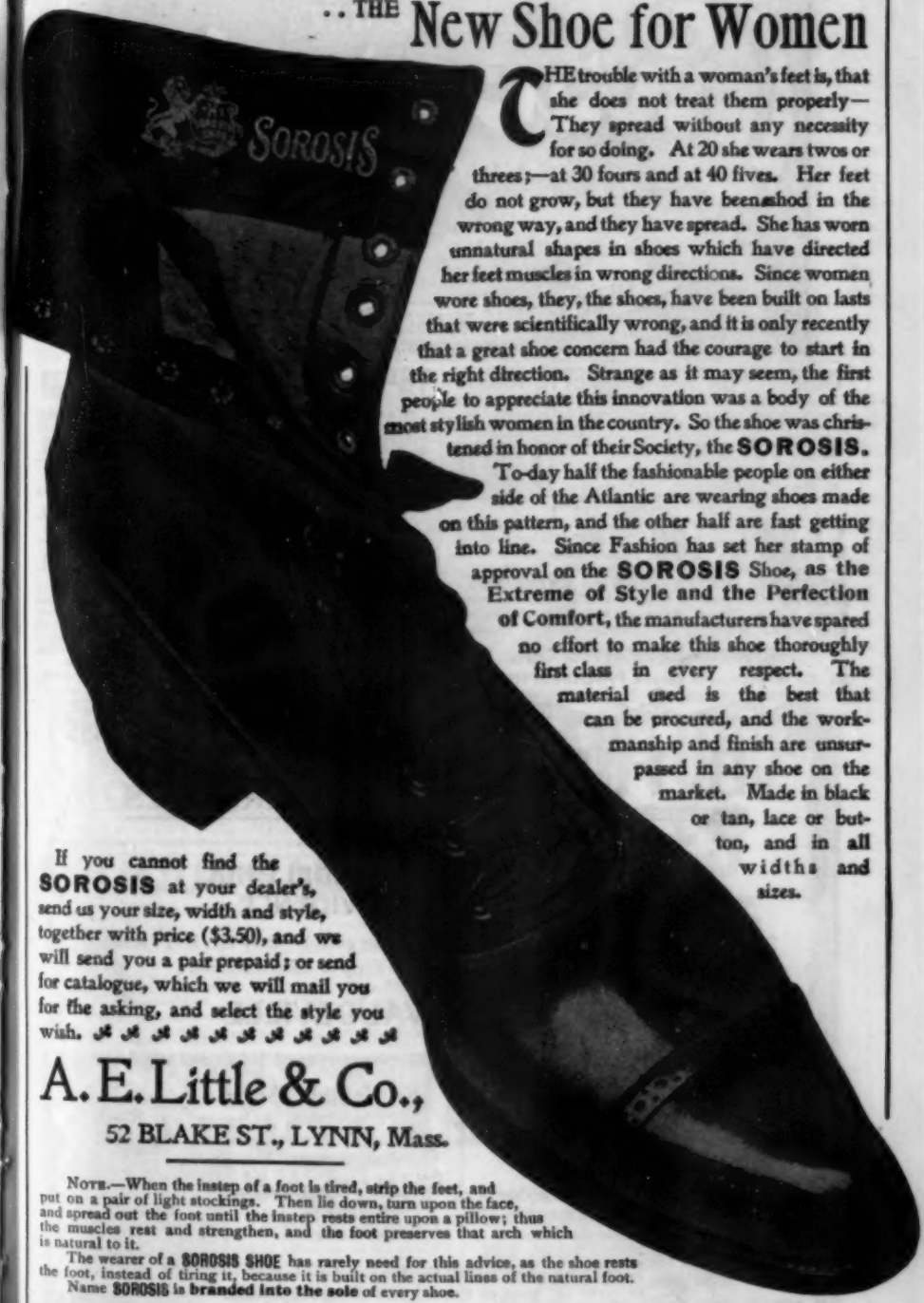
I Make Big Wages —At Home— and want all to have the same opportunity. It's VERY PLEASANT work and will easily pay $18 weekly. This is no deception. I want no money and will gladly send full particulars to all sending 2c. stamp. Mrs. A. H. Wiggins, Box 70, Lawrence, Mich.

Send for free booklet and sample of these goods, which delight every housekeeper who appreciates luxury and economy in table service, and clean, comfortable, healthful beds. Sold by all first-class dry goods houses. Address, Knitted Mattress Co., Canton Junction, Mass.


HALL'S HAIR RENEWER
"GROWS BOUNTIFUL
BEAUTIFUL HAIR".
BINNER

..THE New Shoe for Women



THE trouble with a woman's feet is, that she does not treat them properly—They spread without any necessity for so doing. At 20 she wears twos or threes;—at 30 fours and at 40 fives. Her feet do not grow, but they have been shod in the wrong way, and they have spread. She has worn unnatural shapes in shoes which have directed her feet muscles in wrong directions. Since women wore shoes, they, the shoes, have been built on lasts that were scientifically wrong, and it is only recently that a great shoe concern had the courage to start in the right direction. Strange as it may seem, the first people to appreciate this innovation was a body of the most stylish women in the country. So the shoe was christened in honor of their Society, the **SOROSIS.**

To-day half the fashionable people on either side of the Atlantic are wearing shoes made on this pattern, and the other half are fast getting into line. Since Fashion has set her stamp of approval on the **SOROSIS** Shoe, as the **Extreme of Style and the Perfection of Comfort,** the manufacturers have spared no effort to make this shoe thoroughly first class in every respect. The material used is the best that can be procured, and the workmanship and finish are unsurpassed in any shoe on the market. Made in black or tan, lace or button, and in all widths and sizes.

If you cannot find the **SOROSIS** at your dealer's, send us your size, width and style, together with price ($3.50), and we will send you a pair prepaid; or send for catalogue, which we will mail you for the asking, and select the style you wish.

A. E. Little & Co.,

52 BLAKE ST., LYNN, Mass.

NOTE.—When the instep of a foot is tired, strip the feet, and put on a pair of light stockings. Then lie down, turn upon the face, and spread out the foot until the instep rests entire upon a pillow; thus the muscles rest and strengthen, and the foot preserves that arch which is natural to it.

The wearer of a **SOROSIS SHOE** has rarely need for this advice, as the shoe rests the foot, instead of tiring it, because it is built on the actual lines of the natural foot.

Name **SOROSIS** is **branded into the sole** of every shoe.

CURE YOUR BOY OF THE CIGARETTE HABIT.

Anti-Cigarette—a harmless, vegetable remedy, will cure the habit in 10 days. Can be taken in coffee without discovery. Price 50c. by mail. Phœnix Chemical Co., Quincy, Ill.

For Men, Women and Children. Address, **The N. C. & Rubber Mfg. Co.,** 185 Huron St., TOLEDO, OHIO. Catalogue Free. **RUBBER GOODS**

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No. 151 N. Sixteenth Street, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

FREE

As a sample of our 3,000 bargains we will send FREE this elegant Fountain Pen, warranted a perfect writer, and mammoth new bargain catalogue, for 6c. to cover postage. R. H. INGERSOLL & BRO., 65 Cortlandt St., Dept. 156, N. Y.

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A Patriotic Emblem.

$1 Solid Silver Ring for 10 Cts.

This **ANNIVERSARY** and **SOUVENIR RING** of this great year **1898** we warrant **925-1000** solid sterling silver worth one dollar each. To introduce our great new 1898 illustrated catalogue of Jewelry and Novelties and War Emblems, Flags, etc., we will send one sample for **TEN Cents** in silver or postage stamps. Send piece of paper size of ring wanted. Address, **LYNN & CO., 48 Bond St., New York.**

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Visitors to

NEW YORK **PHILADELPHIA**
BOSTON **PROVIDENCE**

Should not fail to visit the theaters in those cities conducted by Mr. B. F. Keith, the originator of the Continuous Performance form of entertainment.

HIGH CLASS VAUDEVILLE

Special provision made for the comfort and convenience of ladies and children.

Keith's Union Square Theater,
New York, entrance on 14th Street, between Broadway and 4th Avenue.

Keith's Theater,
Boston, (the "Model Playhouse of the Country"), entrances on Tremont and Washington Streets.

Keith's Bijou Theater,
Philadelphia, entrance on North Eighth Street, between Race and Vine Streets.

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Providence, entrance on Westminster Street.

Something going on all the time. An ideal place to pass an hour or two while waiting for a train.

The "NEWEST" bicycle with the "OLDEST" name.

Columbia

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MAKE HILL CLIMBING EASY.

Go to almost any Columbia dealer and try the chainless. You will be convinced of its superiority. The trial costs you nothing.

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Machines and Prices Guaranteed.

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A positive relief for Prickly Heat, Chafing, and Sunburn, and all afflictions of the skin. "A little higher in price than worthless substitutes, but a reason for it." Removes all odor of perspiration. Delightful after shaving. Sold everywhere, or mailed on receipt of 25 cents. Get Mennen's (the original).

Sample free. GERHARD MENNEN CO., Newark, N. J.

CRAWFORD BICYCLES

$50 AND $35

Boys' and Girls' Crawfords, $20 to $30; Tandems, $75.

You are all right if you get a CRAWFORD. They are strictly high grade in every way, with latest improvements and most attractive design and finish.

Crawford Bicycles are sold in almost every city and town in America and abroad. It is more than worth your while to send for Crawford catalogue.

THE CRAWFORD MFG. COMPANY,
Hagerstown, Md.

Branch Houses at New York, Boston, Chicago, St. Louis, and Baltimore.

LOST 40 lbs. OF FAT.

MRS. HELEN WEBER, of Marietta, O., says: "*It reduced my weight 40 lbs. without sickness or any inconvenience whatever.*"

We are going to give away barrels and

Barrels of Sample Boxes Free

just to prove how effective, pleasant, and safe this remedy is to reduce weight. If you want one, send us your name and address at once. IT COSTS YOU NOTHING TO TRY IT. Each box is sent in a plain sealed package with no advertising on it to indicate what it contains. Correspondence strictly confidential.

Are you too stout?

If so, why not reduce your weight and be comfortable? Obesity is a disease and predisposes to Heart Trouble, Paralysis, Liver Disease, Rheumatism, Apoplexy, etc., and is not only dangerous, but extremely annoying to people of refined taste. We do not care how many reduction remedies you may have taken without success, we have a simple treatment that will reduce weight, as thousands can testify. The following are a few of the thousands who have been reduced in weight and greatly improved in health by its use. **Reduced**

Mr. W. A. Pollock, Hartington, Neb. **50** lbs.
Mrs. M. M. Cummins, Ottawa, Ill. . . **78** „
Miss M. Hoisington, Lake View, Mich. **50** „
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COMFORT

secured by using the

Improved Washburne Patent Fasteners

as applied to
Bachelors' Buttons, Hose Supporters, Cuff Holders, Drawers Supporters, Pencil Holders, Necktie Holders, Eye-Glass Holders, Key Chains.

Simple with nothing to break or get out of order. Hold with a bull-dog tenacity, but don't tear the fabric. *Their utility makes them an absolute necessity.*

Any of above sent, postpaid, on receipt of 10c., except Aluminum and Phosphor-Bronze Key Chains, which are 25c

Free! Handsomely Illustrated Catalogue sent on request

AMERICAN RING CO.
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"TRIX"

TRIX CO. ROCHESTER N.Y.

5¢ DIRECT RELIEF "TRIX" FRAGRANT AROMATIC BREATH PERFUME

THE GREAT AMERICAN TEA COMPANY

TEA SET FREE,

Toilet Set, Watch, Lamp, Clock, and many other Household Articles

with $5.00, $7.00 and $10.00 orders of our celebrated Teas, Coffees, Baking Powder, Spices and Extracts. Great inducements. Something entirely new. Price List Free.

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SAFE WATCH CO., P. O. BOX 180 N. Y.

Star Lathes

★ Foot power Screw Cutting Automatic Cross Feed

9 and 11 inch Swing.

New and Original Features.

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$5.00 to $20.00 per 100 paid for cancelled U. S. Stamps. If you have any send 10 cents for price list. Reliable Stamp Concern, Dept. J, 39 Hoadley Ave., Jersey City, N. J.

NEW IMPROVED Folding Thermal Vapor Bath Cabinet.

With or without **Face Steaming Attachment**, (protected by patent.) **Hot Air, Vapor, Medicated or Turkish Baths at home.** Has no equal for its curative properties and general bathing purposes. Entirely renovates the system. Cures Colds, Rheumatism, Gout, Neuralgia, La Grippe, Female Complaints, all Blood, Skin, Nerve and Kidney Diseases. Reduces surplus flesh. Beautifies the complexion. Size 28x18in. folded; weight 7lbs. It is not a cloak or rack but a Cabinet supported by a galvanized frame. Descriptive Book Free. Price Low. Agents Wanted. DR. ROLLENKOPF & McCREERY, Toledo, Ohio.

CURED TO STAY CURED

HAY FEVER

Dr. HAYES, Buffalo, N. Y.

Mlle Lorraine

SAYS

"For daily use it not only imparts a soft, velvety smoothness to the face but unlike many other preparations, I find it is of positive benefit to the skin."

She refers to the renowned

POZZONI'S MEDICATED COMPLEXION POWDERS.

You may not believe this, so send to POZZONI, ST. LOUIS, MO., For Free Sample.

Superfluous

Hair Removed

A growth of hair on the upper lip, also occasionally on the neck and arms, is the humiliation of many of my sex.

I suffered for years; tried, by actual count, eleven different advertised remedies, and submitted once to an electrical operation. Nothing was effective until I came across a preparation in a little hair-dressing shop in Paris, six years ago.

It removed the unsightly growth of hair, which had become thick and coarse on account of the frequent applications of advertised stuff, which removed the hair temporarily, but caused it to grow coarser than ever.

When I say that this certain Parisian preparation effected a permanent removal, I mean just as I say—permanent, for it has been six years since I first used it and there is no sign of a renewed growth yet.

I paid six hundred francs for the formula and have earned my living by selling this preparation ever since. I call it simply "Helen Markoe's Depilatory."

United States Health Reports (Vol. iv., No. 28, page 11) officially endorses as follows:

"Upon analysis we find Helen Markoe's preparation to contain such ingredients as will destroy follicle and otherwise permanently remove hair. Is harmless to skin."

I employ no agents, and give each patron my personal attention. Write for sealed private information to

Mrs. H. B. MARKOE, Room 2037 C, Amer. Tract Society Bldg., N. Y. City, N. Y.

COSTS YOU NOTHING TO TRY IT.

THE NATURAL BODY BRACE

Cures Female Weakness, Restores Health and Vigor, Makes Walking and Work Easy.

We receive thousands of letters similar to this:

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"I wouldn't be without my brace, for it has cured me of all female troubles. Had suffered twelve years with laceration, ulceration, etc., with backache, headache, bearing down, constipation, painful menstruation, ovarian pains, etc. Have had Brace a year, and haven't been in bed an hour from any illness since. Mrs. J. K. Hunter says the same and you can use our names if you wish. A young lady friend said to me not long ago: 'I don't care where I have a pain, the Brace relieves it.' Other friends have told me of their delight with the Brace."

MRS. AUSTIN BERRY.

Money Refunded If Brace is not satisfactory. Send for full information with illustrated book, free.

The Natural Body Brace Co.,

HOWARD C. RASH, Mgr.

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Every Woman anticipating Motherhood should have this Brace.

The Reason:—"The Black Cat meets, and fills, the requirement of intelligent readers of fiction for ingeniously devised and cleverly written short stories, off the lines of the literary analytical chemistry and the dreary dialect maunderings into which the short story of the older magazines has drifted in a great measure. In the present state of magazine fiction the choice is too often between trash from the 'beacon lights' of literature, and bright, attractive work from unpretentious amateurs. The rational preference is obvious, and The Black Cat has stepped in to satisfy it."
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This Cart a Gift.

THIS is a large size Express Wagon with Removable Sliding Seat, welded Steel Tires, Steel Axles, all hard wood, handsomely finished, wood Dasher, Whip Socket, and Whip. Wheels are made of selected stock and have turned Spokes and plated Hub Bands. A Cart that every boy should be proud to own.

We make you a free gift of this Cart, if you will take orders among your friends for **10 lbs.** of **Tilden's Brand** of **Teas** and **Baking Powder,** or for a mixed order of Tea, Coffee, Extracts, etc., amounting to SIX DOLLARS.

We pay all express charges, also send you the Cart with your order in advance, and allow you plenty of time to deliver goods and collect money.

Send for Order Sheets and Premium Lists.

TILDEN TEA CO., Brockton, Mass.

Pabst Malt Extract

The "Best" Tonic

"A Malt Extract without an Imperfection"

The Best Investment

a man can make
for the

Protection of his Wife and Children

in case of his death,
and for the

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against business misfortunes,
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In the treatment of Deferred Dividends THE HOME LIFE is the *only* Company that applies the Dividends to the purchase of Endowments, payable to the insured upon completion of the Dividend-Endowment period, if the policy be then in force.

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For full particulars regarding *Ideal Life Insurance*, write to or call upon

EDWARD S. BARKER,

Manager for Eastern Massachusetts,

17 Milk St., Boston, Mass.

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VOLUME TIGHTLY BOUND

For the Hair.

Absolute Cure for Dandruff. Soothes all Irritation of the Scalp. The only preparation that makes the hair grow by nourishing the roots. Price, 50c. and $1.00 per bottle.

JOSEPH BURNETT CO.,
36 India Street, Boston, Mass.

Send your address for our pamphlet on the Hair, its care and management.

Certificate of an Eminent Chemist.

I HAVE MADE A CAREFUL CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF

Sozodont

for the Teeth,

AND FIND NOTHING INJURIOUS OR OBJECTIONABLE IN ITS COMPOSITION.

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A sample of liquid Sozodont for 3c. P. O. Box 247, New York City.

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NEW YORK *Proprietors.* LONDON

1 oz. bottle 90 cents. Will be sent express paid on receipt of price.

The New Lundborg Perfume,

"Heather of the Links,"

is Up to Date and as Royal as the Ancient Game of Golf.

For Sale by Dealers Generally.

LADD & COFFIN,

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"Photographic Advice"

A HANDSOMELY ILLUSTRATED MANUAL,

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THE "SOLOGRAPH" CAMERA

is the most practical instrument.

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OF NEW YORK,
60 & 62 East Eleventh St. (5 doors from Broadway).
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OVER **104,000** NOW IN USE.

FISCHER PIANOS.

EST^D 1840.

Offices and Factories:
417-433 West 28th St.
New York.

1851. THE PHOENIX MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, 1898.

Send your age to Home Office, and we will send you sample policies showing just what we have to offer.

Stewart's Duplex Safety Pins.

IN ALL SIZES.

NOTICE THE GUARD

is **Inside of Spring** where it is effective. **Beware of** substitutes for it placed elsewhere. Only **STEWART'S PINS** have this Patent Guard.

DUPLEX PINS work as easily in the dark as in the light; fasten from either side, but **Cannot Slip Through, as All Others Do.** Dealers may offer other pins with so-called guards. Demand the genuine **"Stewart's" Duplex."** Take no others. If dealers will not supply you, send three 2-cent stamps for samples of twelve assorted sizes.

Made in Nickel-Plate and Jet Black.

CONSOLIDATED SAFETY PIN COMPANY,

Box K, Bloomfield, N. J.

Makers of Holdfast Aluminum Hairpins.

A Sense of Pleasure

comes to the mouth that's made sweet and wholesome by the use of delicious

Arnica Tooth Soap

Preserves and whitens the teeth, strengthens the gums, sweetens the breath. Is antiseptic, cooling, refreshing. The standard dentifrice for 30 years.

25c at all druggists, or by mail.

C. H. STRONG & CO., CHICAGO, U. S. A.

THE GREAT AMERICAN TEA COMPANY

TEA SET FREE,

Toilet Set, Watch, Lamp, Clock, and many other Household Articles

with $5.00, $7.00 and $10.00 orders of our celebrated Teas, Coffees, Baking Powder, Spices and Extracts. Great inducements. Something entirely new. Price List Free.

THE GREAT AMERICAN TEA CO.,
31 and 33 Vesey St., N. Y., P. O. Box 289.

It Stands Alone

The secret of its supremacy over all similar foods rests in its superiority over them. Nothing but intrinsic merit could have forced it to so high a place in the world's esteem.

You are missing something good if you do not eat it.

THE EASY FOOD

Quaker Oats

THE WORLD'S BREAKFAST

ACCEPT NO SUBSTITUTE

1851. THE PHOENIX MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, 1898. Send your age to Home Office, and we will send you sample policies showing just what we have to offer.

IT'S THIS GLORIOUS, rich, creamy lather—so softening, soothing and refreshing, so delicately fragrant and invigorating—that robs shaving of all its terrors, and has given Williams' Shaving Soaps world-wide fame.

Williams' Shaving Soaps are sold everywhere, but sent by mail if your dealer does not supply you.

Williams' Shaving Stick, 25 cents. **Luxury Shaving Tablet, 25 cents.**
Genuine Yankee Shaving Soap, 10 cents. **Swiss Violet Shaving Cream, 50 cents.**
Williams' Shaving Soap (Barbers') 6 round cakes, 1 lb., 40 cts. Exquisite also for Toilet.
Trial Cake for 2c. Stamp.

THE J. B. WILLIAMS CO., GLASTONBURY, CONN.
LONDON, 64 Great Russell St., W. C. SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA, 161 Clarence St.

Williams' Glycerated Tar Soap, 15c.

MELLIN'S FOOD

A year ago I commenced to use Mellin's Food and the result is that my baby, now 13 months, is as healthy and happy as any boy in the world; has never been sick a day since he was two months old.

MRS. MATTIE SMITH,
64 Dorchester Street, Lawrence, Mass.

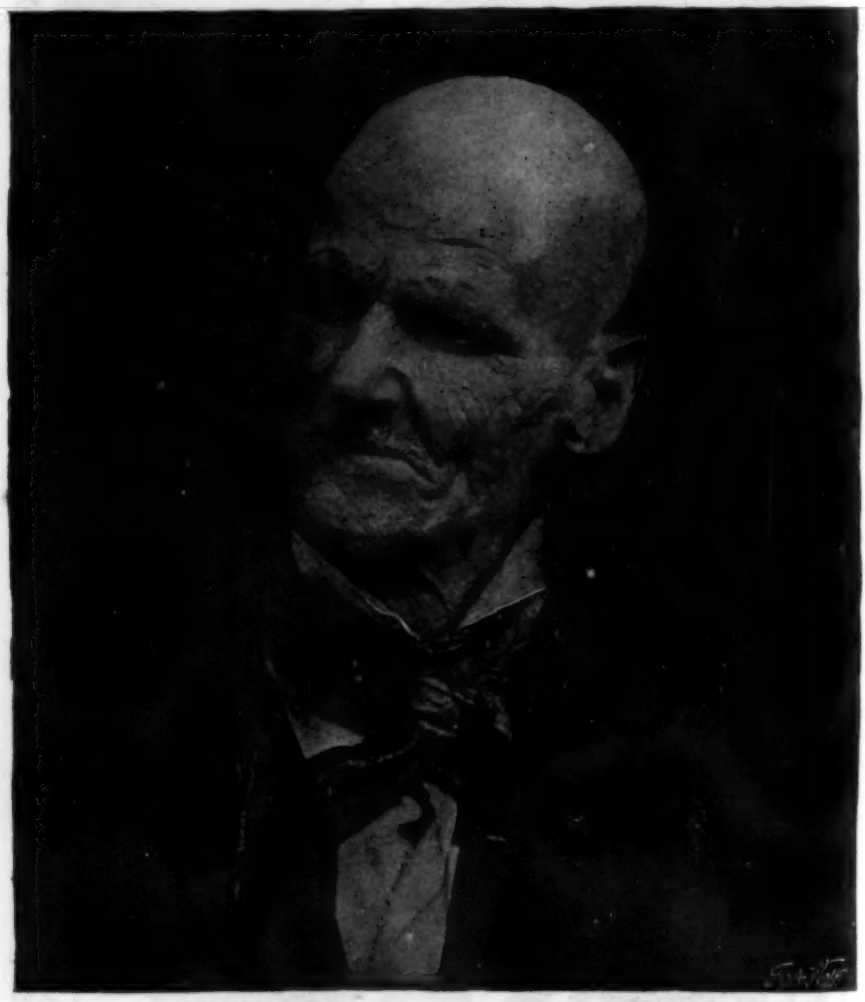
Drop us a postal for a free sample of Mellin's Food.

MELLIN'S FOOD CO., BOSTON, MASS.

Hall's Hair Renewer

What does it do? It feeds the hair bulbs, gives them new life, arouses them to action.

With what result? The natural color is restored to gray and faded hair. The hair ceases to fall out, and rapidly thickens. Dandruff disappears, not to return again. Send for our illustrated book.



"I Never Used It."

"I have used Hall's Hair Renewer for the last thirty-five years, and I know it will do all that it is recommended to do. It will restore the color, cure dandruff, and prevent the hair from falling out. I believe I would to-day be bald-headed and gray if it had not been for the use of Hall's Hair Renewer. It will certainly restore the color, and I don't hesitate to recommend it."—R. M. TUCKER, M.D., Helena, Ala.

If your druggist cannot supply you, send one dollar to R. P. Hall & Co., Nashua, N. H.

consider the facts, that such adulterations as have been alleged could only be made out of sheer perversity and would be in plain contravention of the business interests of the manufacturers.

Ignorance of easily ascertainable scientific facts is, however, common enough, as is often illustrated by the brown, oily material formed in the smoking of tobacco being pointed out as nicotine, though in reality this is merely the *tar* produced by the action of heat on the woody fiber of the leaf.

Nicotine when pure is a colorless fluid of somewhat oily consistence and strong, peculiar, penetrating odor, but it darkens on exposure to air and light, becoming first yellow and then brown, so that it *looks*, in this darkened condition, something like the tarry matter which soils a smoker's fingers or a handkerchief through which tobacco smoke is exhaled, or is often noticed as deposited in the stem of a pipe. This tarry deposit has nothing essential in common with nicotine, and contains but traces of this alkaloid, when any at all. A part, but only a small part (about one seventh in the experiments of Melsens), of the real nicotine of tobacco is volatilized without decomposition; the remainder is burned and destroyed in the process of smoking.

The sensational statements occasionally made in regard to arsenic, copper, etc., as present in the paper wrappers would be at once seen to be grossly improbable if it were but remembered that the wrapper of a single cigarette weighs little more than half a grain, and that in such a minute quantity of thin, delicate white paper there could be introduced but infinitesimal amounts of such foreign adulterants without their presence becoming perceptible to common observation by the senses, aside from the positive scientific evidence that they are *not* present.

The simple facts are, that such cigarettes as I have examined, representing a large part of those in general use throughout the United States, are made from pure, light-yellow tobacco of the high grade produced on certain special soils, prominently in certain of the southern counties of Virginia and the adjacent portion of North Carolina, with wrappers of the best quality of harmless vegetable fiber paper, and are entirely free from the adulterants which it has been asserted are present, with no evidence in favor of such assertion, and in absolute contradiction of the scientific evidence actually available.

I am, sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) J. W. MALLET,
Charlotteville, Va.

A Piano at a Nominal Price.

Chicago's leading music house and the largest music house in the world, Lyon & Healy, has just bought for a fraction of its cost, the entire stock of Lyon, Potter & Co., who retire from business. These splendid pianos are offered without reserve until all are sold. In this stock is a large number of new Steinway pianos, and hundreds of new and second-hand pianos, including instruments of the following well-known makes: Sterling, Huntington, Chase, Vose, Fischer, Weber, Chickering, Lyon, Webster, Briggs, Hardman, Kurtzman, Behning, etc., etc. In Square Pianos there are fine-toned instruments of all the leading makes at $25, $40, $60, and upwards. In Upright Pianos neat instruments at $100, $120, $140, $150, $165, $190, $200, and upwards. In Parlor and Concert Grands some nice specimens at $250, and upwards. Nearly all these pianos were intended to sell for at least double these closing-out sale prices. This is an opportunity that will not occur again, as the firm of Lyon, Potter & Co. carried one of the finest piano stocks in the country. Immediate attention is therefore necessary. A good plan would be to order a piano, leaving the selection of it to Lyon & Healy. However, they will send a list and full particulars upon application. Any piano not proving entirely satisfactory may be returned at their expense. Address simply, Lyon & Healy, Chicago. Distance is no obstacle in taking advantage of this remarkable chance to obtain a piano, for in proportion to the saving to be made the freight charges are insignificant. If you do not already know Lyon & Healy by reputation any banker will assure you of their entire responsibility and record of over a third of a century for honorable dealing. Write to-day so as to avoid disappointment.

The Wheels of Success

are easily set in motion by houses who draw their Business Printing and Advertising Literature from the right source.

We regularly supply many of the foremost Money Makers of America with their Catalogues, Booklets, Pamphlets, Price-Lists, etc.

We also construct for them "out-of-the-ordinary" advertisements.

And THEY SAY that in point of artistic attractiveness and profit-producing results, our work stands at the head.

The Barta Press,
Boston, Mass.

B. F. KEITH'S AMUSEMENT ENTERPRISES

Visitors to

New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Providence,

Should not fail to visit the theaters in those cities conducted by Mr. B. F. Keith, the originator of the Continuous Performance form of entertainment.

HIGH CLASS VAUDEVILLE

Special provision made for the comfort and convenience of ladies and children.

Keith's Union Square Theater,
New York, entrance on 14th Street, between Broadway and 4th Avenue.

Keith's Theater,
Boston (the "Model Playhouse of the Country"), entrances on Tremont and Washington Streets.

Keith's Bijou Theater,
Philadelphia, entrance on North Eighth Street, between Race and Vine Streets.

Keith's Opera House,
Providence, entrance on Westminster Street.

Something going on all the time. An ideal place to pass an hour or two while waiting for a train.

LOST 40 lbs. OF FAT.

Are you too stout?

If so, why not reduce your weight and be comfortable? Obesity is a disease and predisposes to Heart Trouble, Paralysis, Liver Disease, Rheumatism, Apoplexy, etc., and is not only dangerous, but extremely annoying to people of refined taste. We do not care how many reduction remedies you may have taken without success, we have a simple treatment that will reduce weight, as thousands can testify. The following are a few of the thousands who have been reduced in weight and greatly improved in health by its use.

Reduced

Mr. W. A. Pollock, Hartington, Neb. **50** lbs.
Mrs. M. M. Cummins, Ottawa, Ill. . . **78** „
Miss M. Hoisington, LakeView, Mich. **50** „
Miss M. Nobles, Racine, Wis. **54** „

MRS. HELEN WEBER, of Marietta, O., says: "*It reduced my weight 40 lbs. without sickness or any inconvenience whatever.*"

We are going to give away barrels and

Barrels of Sample Boxes Free

just to prove how effective, pleasant, and safe this remedy is to reduce weight. If you want one, send us your name and address at once. IT COSTS YOU NOTHING TO TRY IT. Each box is sent in a plain sealed package with no advertising on it to indicate what it contains. Correspondence strictly confidential.

Hall Chemical Co., K. A. Box, St. Louis, Mo.

Varicose Veins,

Weak Knees, Weak Ankles and Swollen Joints are greatly relieved and often CURED by

Elastic Stockings

Made strictly to measure at about half usual prices. Our Elastic Stockings are the only seamless heel stockings made and do not rip or chafe. Don't suffer, send for illustrated catalogue, prices and self-measuring directions.

CURTIS & SPINDELL CO., 51 Wyman Block, Lynn, Mass.

BASE BALL.
$250 in Prizes FREE,

For correct lists of the National League Clubs in the order in which they will finish the season ending Oct. 15, 1898. **$100** for first correct list received, **$50** for second, **$25** for third, **$15** for fourth, **$10** for fifth, **$5** for sixth, **$2** each for next ten, **$1** each for next twenty-five correct lists.

The rank of clubs August 1 was as follows: Cincinnati, Boston, Cleveland, Baltimore, Chicago, New York, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Brooklyn, Washington, Louisville, St. Louis. How will they stand October 15? Send in your list, and enclose fifty cents in silver, P. O. or Express Money Order, for our **Improved Base Ball Score Book and Record Book**, worth **$1**, which no base ball enthusiast should be without. Lists must be in by Oct. 5, 1898.

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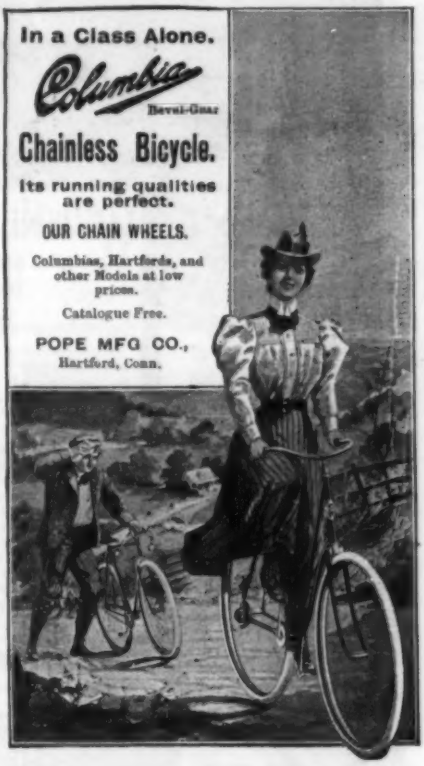

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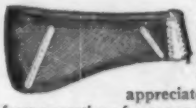

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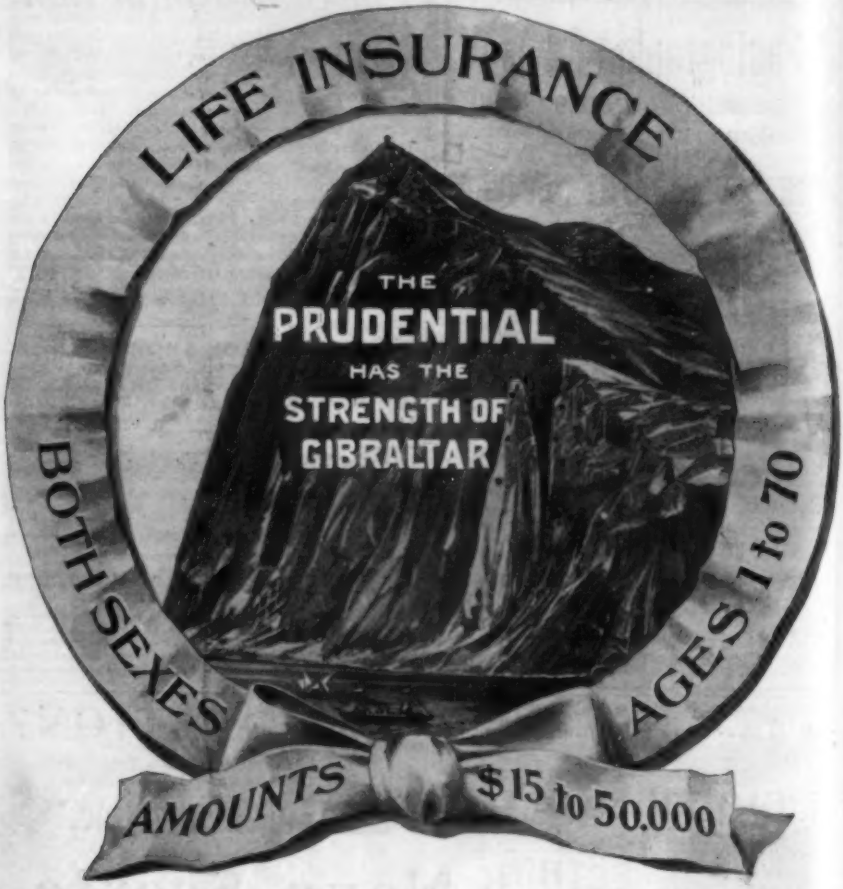

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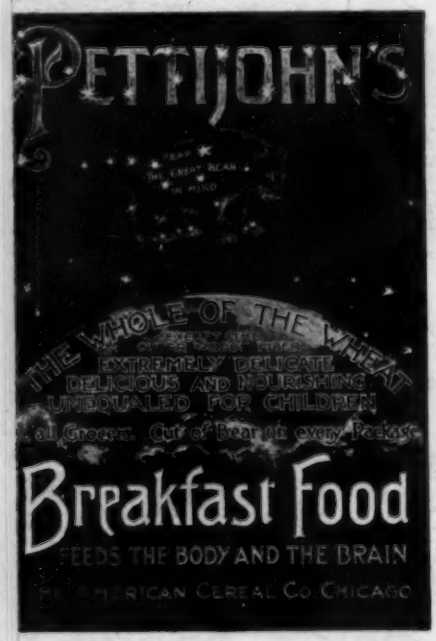

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....The only hairpins that stay where you put them and neither fall out, warp, split, nor break.

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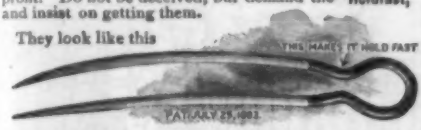

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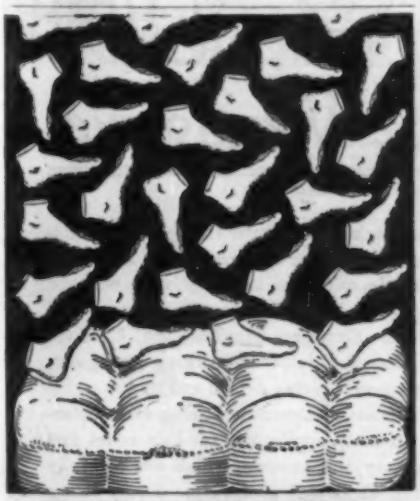

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All feet and fancies fitted in toes, heels, and leathers.

QUALITY COUNTS in { style, fit and comfort, material, workmanship.

The limit of excellence for **$3.00.**

In these essentials this shoe is **QUEEN QUALITY** from start to finish.

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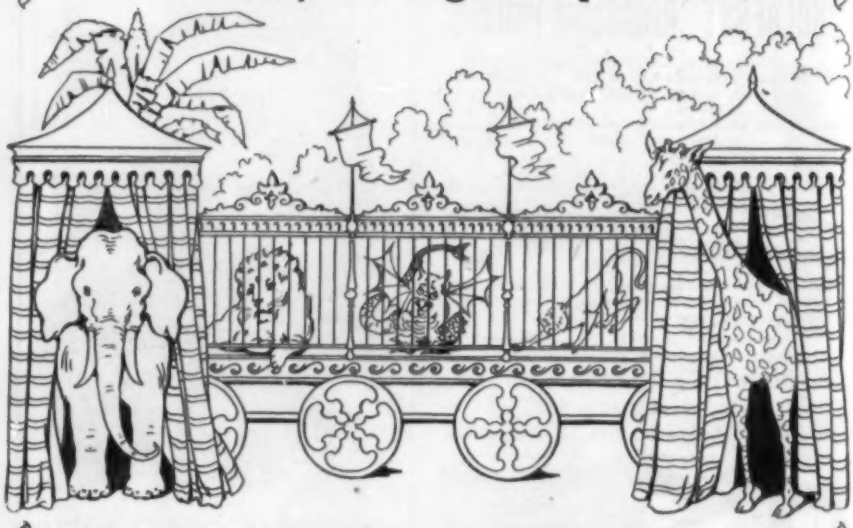
A MONEY MAKER

For Church Fairs or other Money-Getting Enterprises.



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with $5.00, $7.00 and $10.00 orders of our celebrated Teas, Coffees, Baking Powder, Spices and Extracts. Great inducements. Something entirely new. Price List Free.

THE GREAT AMERICAN TEA CO.,
31 and 33 Vesey St., N. Y., P. O. Box 289.

CAMERAS Send for Circular. LORD & CO., 529 Broadway, New York City.

SPECIAL $2.75

EXAMINATION FREE. Cut this ad out and send to us; SEND NO MONEY. State your HEIGHT and WEIGHT, number of inches around body at Bust and Neck, whether Black or Blue is wanted, and we will send you this cape by express C. O. D., subject to examination. You can examine and try it on at your nearest express office, and if found exactly as represented, and the best value you ever saw or heard of, and far cheaper than any other house can offer, pay the express agent our special price, $2.75 and express charges.

THIS CAPE is the very latest style for Fall and Winter, made of Black or Blue all-wool genuine Clayton Beaver Cloth, 28 inches long, very full sweep, 12-inch upper cape and large storm collar, beautifully edged with fine Black Baltic Seal, trimmed with one row wide and three rows narrow Mohair braid. This garment is fine tailor-made throughout and equal to capes that sell at more than double our price. Write for our free Cloak Catalogue of everything in women's and children's wear. Address, SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.)
Fulton, Desplaines and Wayman Sts., CHICAGO, ILL.

CURED TO STAY CURED
ASTHMA
Dr. HAYES, Buffalo, N. Y.

1 oz. bottle 90 cents. Will be sent express paid on receipt of price.

The New Lundborg Perfume,

"Heather of the Links,"

is Up to Date and as Royal as the Ancient Game of Golf.

For Sale by Dealers Generally.

LADD & COFFIN,

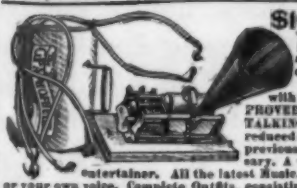
Proprietors and Manufacturers of Lundborg's Perfumes,

24 Barclay Street, New York.

MENNEN'S BORATED TALCUM TOILET POWDER

A positive relief for Prickly Heat, Chafing, and Sunburn, and all afflictions of the skin. "A little higher in price than worthless substitutes, but a reason for it." Removes all odor of perspiration. Delightful after shaving. Sold everywhere, or mailed on receipt of 25 cents. Get Mennen's (the original).

Sample free. GERHARD MENNEN CO., Newark, N. J.



$10.00 To $30.00 and expenses can be made **EVERY DAY** with our NEW IMPROVED GRAPHOPHONE TALKING-MACHINE. Price reduced to $10.00. No previous experience necessary. A wonder as a home entertainer. All the latest Music, Songs, Speeches or your own voice. Complete Outfits, consisting of Machine with automatic spring motor which runs 2 records with one winding, Hearing Tubes, Concert Horn, 12 Musical or Talking Records, large size Show Bills, Admission Tickets, Etc., for $15.25. An opportunity to make BIG MONEY EASY giving public entertainments. Just the thing for Church and Sunday-school entertainments. Anyone can operate them. Send for FREE Catalogue of Graphophones, Records, Etc. with hundreds of testimonials from those who are making big money with our Graphophone Outfits, or, by sending ONE DOLLAR we will send the outfit by express C. O. D., subject to examination, balance payable when received. Address,

SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.) CHICAGO, ILL.
(Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable—Editor.)

The Best Investment

a man can make
for the

Protection of his Wife and Children

in case of his death,
and for the

Protection of Himself

against business misfortunes,
is offered by the Guarantee
Option

POLICIES

issued by the

Company's Building opposite City Hall Park, New York.

Home Life Insurance Company

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In the treatment of Deferred Dividends THE HOME LIFE is the *only* Company that applies the Dividends to the purchase of Endowments, payable to the insured upon completion of the Dividend-Endowment period, if the policy be then in force.

This method enables the Company to furnish the Policy-holder with the *exact and unalterable* amount of his accumulations from year to year.

For full particulars regarding *Ideal Life Insurance*, write to or call upon

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Manager for Eastern Massachusetts,

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COSTS YOU NOTHING TO TRY IT.

THE NATURAL BODY BRACE

Cures Female Weakness, Restores Health and Vigor, Makes Walking and Work Easy.

We receive thousands of letters similar to this:

Owensboro, Ky., Jan. 1, 1907. "I wouldn't be without my brace, for it has cured me of all female troubles. Had suffered twelve years with laceration, ulceration, etc., with backache, headache, bearing down, constipation, painful menstruation, ovarian pains, etc. Have had Brace a year, and haven't been in bed an hour from any illness since. Mrs. J. K. Hunter says the same and you can use our names if you wish. A young lady friend said to me not long ago: 'I don't care where I have a pain, the Brace relieves it.' Other friends have told me of their delight with the Brace."
MRS. AUSTIN BERRY.

Money Refunded if Brace is not satisfactory. Send for full information with illustrated book, free.

The Natural Body Brace Co.,
HOWARD C. RASH, MGR.
BOX 50, SALINA, KANSAS.

Every Woman anticipating Motherhood should have this Brace.

SUPERFLUOUS HAIR

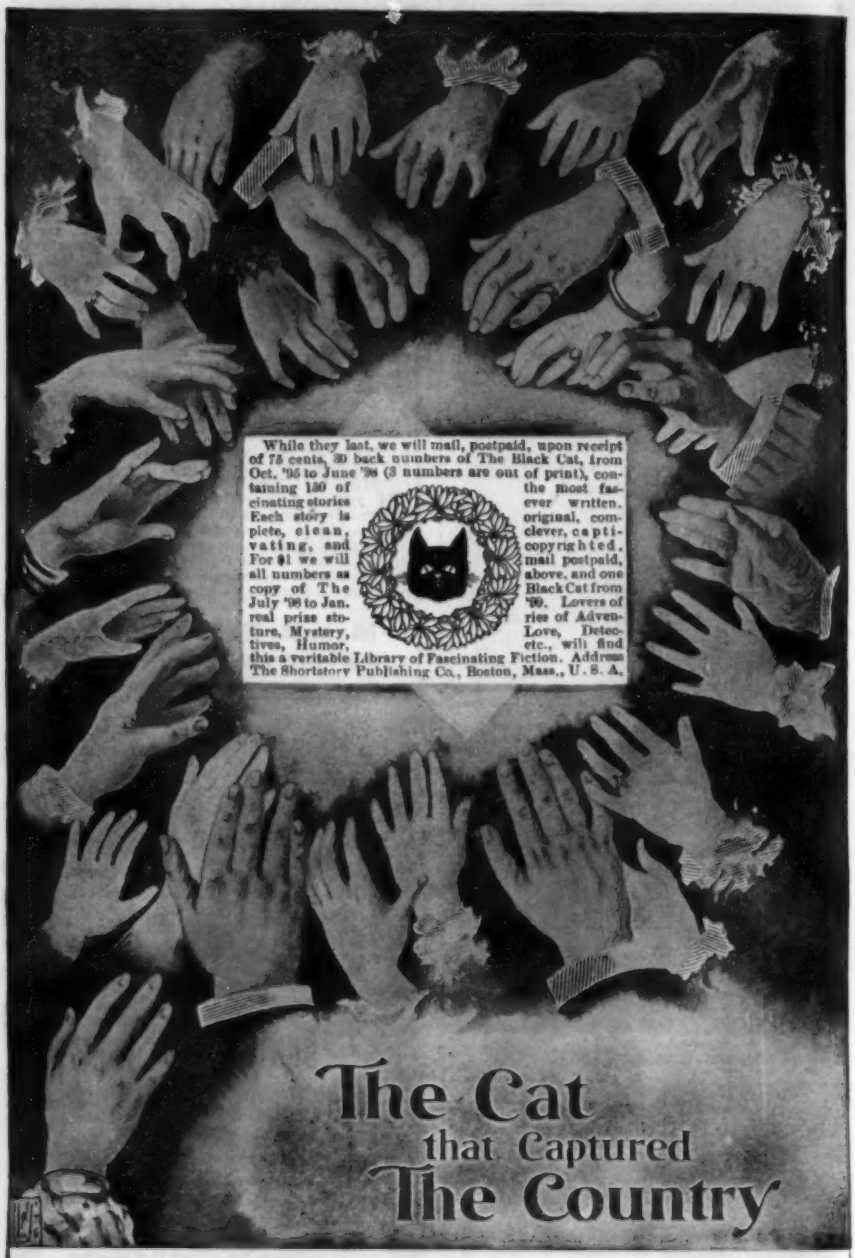
PERMANENTLY REMOVED.

I suffered for years with a humiliating growth of hair on my face, and tried many remedies without success; but I ultimately discovered the **true secret** for permanent removal of hair, and for six years have been applying my treatment to others, thereby rendering happiness to, and gaining thanks of **thousands of ladies.**

I assert, and **will prove to you,** that my depilatory treatment will destroy the follicle and otherwise **permanently remove the hair forever.** No trace is left on the skin after using, and the treatment can be applied privately by yourself in your own chamber.

If you are troubled, write to me for further information, and I will convince you of all I claim. I will give prompt personal and strictly confidential attention to your letter. Being a woman, I know of the delicacy of such a matter as this and act accordingly. Address, inclosing two stamps. Mention you saw this in THE BLACK CAT.

Mrs. H. B. MARKOE,
156 B Fifth Ave., New York City.



The Reason:—"The Black Cat meets, and fills, the requirement of intelligent readers of fiction for ingeniously devised and cleverly written short stories, off the lines of the literary analytical chemistry and the dreary dialect maunderings into which the short story of the older magazines has drifted in a great measure. In the present state of magazine fiction the choice is too often between trash from the 'beacon lights' of literature, and bright, attractive work from unpretentious amateurs. The rational preference is obvious, and The Black Cat has stepped in to satisfy it."
—*Andrew H. Allen, Chief of Bureau of Rolls and Library of the Department of State, Washington, D. C.*

Send for free booklet and sample of these goods, which delight every housekeeper who appreciates luxury and economy in table service, and clean, comfortable, healthful beds. Sold by all first-class dry goods houses. Address, Knitted Mattress Co., Canton Junction, Mass.

COCOA
FOR BREAKFAST & SUPPER.
QUALITY UNEXCELLED!
(¼ lb. CANS.)

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BLUE WRAPPER.

PREMIUM CHOCOLATE.
FOR DRINKING, COOKING, BAKING &c
DELICIOUSNESS of FLAVOR UNSURPASSED.
GROCERS EVERYWHERE. Insist on Huyler's Take No Other

SEND US ONE DOLLAR

AND THIS AD. and we will send you this BIG 300-pound new RESERVOIR STOVE by freight C. O. D., subject to examination, examine it at your freight depot, and if found perfectly satisfactory, and the GREATEST STOVE BARGAIN you ever saw or heard of, pay the freight agent Our Special Price, $11.50, less the $1 sent with order, or $10.50 and freight charges.

This stove is size 8x18; oven is 18x17x11; top, 24x44; height, 28½. Made from best pig iron, large fires, cut tops, heavy cut centers, heavy corners, heavy linings, with very heavy sectional fire-back, large balled ash pan, slide hearth-plate and side oven-shelf, pouch feed, oven door kicker, heavy tin-lined oven door, handsome nickel trimmings on doors, front, sides, etc. Extra large, deep, porcelain-lined reservoir. Best Coal Burner made, and we furnish an extra wood grate, making it a perfect wood burner.

WE ISSUE A BINDING GUARANTEE with every stove. Your local dealer would ask at least $20.00 for such a stove; order this and you will save at least $8.00. The freight is only about $1.00 for each 500 miles.

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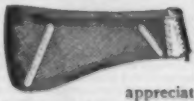
(Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

It Pays men with small capital to send for 256 page book that explains a way to make money with a **Magic Lantern or Stereopticon.** It's free. McALLISTER, Mfg. Optician, 49 Nassau St., N. Y.

NEW IMPROVED
Folding Thermal Vapor Bath Cabinet.

With or without Face Steaming Attachment, (protected by patent.) Hot Air, Vapor, Medicated or Turkish Baths at home. Has no equal for its curative properties and general bathing purposes. Entirely renovates the system. Cures Colds, Rheumatism, Gout, Neuralgia, LaGrippe, Female Complaints, all Blood, Skin, Nerve and Kidney Diseases. Reduces surplus flesh. Beautifies the complexion. Size 39x11in. folded; weight 7lbs. It is not a cloak or sack but a Cabinet supported by a galvanized frame. Descriptive Book Free. Price Low. Agents Wanted. DR. MOLLENKOPF & McCREERY, Toledo, Ohio.

Elastic Hospital Belt.



This belt gives absolute support to the abdomen, and is particularly designed to relieve and correct weakness in that part. It is greatly appreciated by patients recovering from operations for appendicitis, etc., and is invaluable in cases of navel rupture. *It checks a tendency to corpulency* and overcomes the dangers attending violent exercise, jarring, jolting, etc. Woven to measure by hand, of elastic thread similar to that used in our celebrated Elastic Stockings, only heavier. Fit guaranteed if measurements are correctly taken. Send for prices and self-measuring directions.

CURTIS & SPINDELL CO., 60 Wyman Block, LYNN, MASS.

LOST 40 lbs. OF FAT.

Are you too stout?

If so, why not reduce your weight and be comfortable? Obesity is a disease and predisposes to Heart Trouble, Paralysis, Liver Disease, Rheumatism, Apoplexy, etc., and is not only dangerous, but extremely annoying to people of refined taste. We do not care how many reduction remedies you may have taken without success, we have a simple treatment that will reduce weight, as thousands can testify. The following are a few of the thousands who have been reduced in weight and greatly improved in health by its use. **Reduced**

Mr. W. A. Pollock, Hartington, Neb. **50** lbs.
Mrs. M. M. Cummins, Ottawa, Ill. . . . **78** "
Miss M. Holmington, LakeView, Mich. **50** "
Miss M. Nobles, Racine, Wis. **54** "

MRS. HELEN WEBER, of Marietta, O., says: "*It reduced my weight 40 lbs. without sickness or any inconvenience whatever.*"

We are going to give away barrels and

Barrels of Sample Boxes Free

just to prove how effective, pleasant, and safe this remedy is to reduce weight. If you want one, send us your name and address at once. IT COSTS YOU NOTHING TO TRY IT. Each box is sent in a plain sealed package with no advertising on it to indicate what it contains. Correspondence strictly confidential.

Hall Chemical Co., K. A. Box, St. Louis, Mo.

OUR 1899 MACKINTOSH

$2.95

SEND NO MONEY, cut this ad. out and send to us, state your height and weight, bust measure, length of garment from collar down back to waist line, and waist line to bottom of skirt; state color wanted and we will send you this mackintosh by express C. O. D., subject to examination; examine and try it on at your nearest express office and if found exactly as represented and by far the greatest value you ever saw or heard of, pay your express agent OUR SPECIAL OFFER PRICE, $2.95, and express charges.

THIS MACKINTOSH is made of BLACK or BLUE genuine RAINGLEY double texture, waterproof SERGE CLOTH, with fancy plaid lining, velvet collar, double detachable cape, extra full sweep cape and skirt, guaranteed latest style and finest tailor-made.

FOR FREE CLOTH SAMPLES of everything in ladies' mackintoshes, write for free Sample Book No. 85 C. ADDRESS,

SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.), CHICAGO, ILL.

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HOW TO MAKE MONEY.

We want one shrewd, careful man in every town to make a few thousand dollars for himself quietly at home and not work hard. Private instructions and valuable outfit of samples sent FREE. Address immediately, P. O. BOX 5308, BOSTON, MASS.

For Men, Women and Children. Address,
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RUBBER GOODS

Varicose Veins,

Weak Knees, Weak Ankles and Swollen Joints are greatly relieved and often CURED by

Elastic Stockings

Made strictly to measure at about half usual prices. Our Elastic Stockings are the only seamless heel stockings made and do not rip or chafe. Don't suffer, send for illustrated catalogue, prices and self-measuring directions.

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Having recently purchased the entire stock of watches from a bankrupt firm, consisting of solid gold, silver and gold-filled cases, we shall offer a portion of the entire lot at prices never before heard of in the Watch trade. Among the stock are 5,780 AMERICAN STYLE WATCES, in SOLID GOLD-FILLED CASES, which we shall sell singly or by the dozen to private parties or the trade, at the unheard-of LOW PRICE of $3.98 EACH. Each and every watch is guaranteed a perfect timekeeper, and each watch is accompanied with our guarantee for 20 years. Think of it! A genuine American Style Movement watch, in solid gold-filled case, and guaranteed 20 YEARS for $3.98. Those wanting a first-class, reliable time-keeper at about one-third retail price, should order at once. Watch speculators can make money by buying by the dozen to sell. CUT THIS OUT and send to us and we will send a watch to you C. O. D., subject to examination, by express, upon approval. If found perfectly satisfactory, and exactly as represented, pay $3.98 and express charges, and it is yours, otherwise you do not pay one cent. Can we make a fairer offer? Be sure to mention whether you want ladies' or gents' size. Price per dozen, $42.00. If full amount, $3.98 is sent with the order, we will include one of our special heavy GOLD FILLED CHAINS, which retail the world over, for $1.00. Address at once,

SAFE WATCH CO., 19 Warren St., NEW YORK.

"Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup."

CHILDREN TEETHING

FOR OVER FIFTY YEARS.

An Old and Well-Tried Remedy.

MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP

has been used for over **fifty years** by **millions** of **mothers** for their **children while teething**, with **perfect success. It soothes** the **child, softens** the **gums, allays** all **pain; cures wind colic,** and is the best remedy for **diarrhœa.** Sold by Druggists in every part of the world.

BE SURE AND ASK FOR

MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP,

And take no other kind.

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS A BOTTLE.

THIS BUSINESS ADVERTISES ITSELF.

One of the unique features of the New York Central's "Lake Shore Limited" is the fact that it advertises itself.

The magnificence of the service and completeness of detail makes every patron an advertiser of its merits.

It is estimated that every person who travels by this train brings at least a dozen new patrons.

"The Lake Shore Limited" leaves Grand Central Station, New York, every afternoon at 5.00, and arrives Chicago via Lake Shore & Michigan Southern Railway the next afternoon at 4.00.

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Cancer and Tumor Cured without the aid of knife or plaster, and without pain.

A treatise, testimonials and letter of advice free. Address,

Vegetable Cancer Cure Co.,

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The finest sanitarium in America.

MORPHINE LAUDANUM, and all DRUG HABITS. ONLY PERFECT, PAINLESS, HOME CURE KNOWN. TRIAL SAMPLE FREE. ST. JAMES SOCIETY, 1181 BROADWAY, NEW YORK.

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are easily set in motion by houses who draw their Business Printing and Advertising Literature from the right source.

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We also construct for them "out-of-the-ordinary" advertisements.

And THEY SAY that in point of artistic attractiveness and profit-producing results, our work stands at the head.

The Barta Press,

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Renowed Interest in Amateur Photography!

"Photographic Advice"

A HANDSOMELY ILLUSTRATED MANUAL,

Sent post free to any amateur on receipt of 10 cents in postage stamps.

THE "SOLOGRAPH" CAMERA

Is the most practical instrument.

THE SCOVILL & ADAMS COMPANY,

OF NEW YORK,

60 & 62 East Eleventh St. (5 doors from Broadway).

W. I. LINCOLN ADAMS, President.

IF WILL COST YOU ONE CENT to secure a Solid GOLD laid Bolivian Carbon DIAMOND Gem RING, here illustrated. A ring similar in appearance could not be bought of any first-class jeweler for less than $50! Do you want one for nothing but a few hours of your spare time? We wish to enlarge the sale of our celebrated Persian Petrified Perfumery, the most unique novelty now on the market, and in order to do so, we agree, upon receipt of your name and address only, to send you 20 cases of the Perfume, WHICH YOU CAN SELL AT FIVE CENTS PER CASE in as many hours. Free by mail, prepaid, without asking you one cent in advance. When you sell the 20 Cases at Five Cents per case, then remit us $1.00 and we SEND YOU AS A FREE PRESENT FOR YOUR TROUBLE THE HANDSOME RING. No capital required. We take all risk. The most liberal offer ever heard of. Simply send your name and address and we will forward you the Perfumery at once. Address,

PERSIAN PERFUMERY CO., 19 Warren St., New York.

50 CENTS.

Cut this ad. out and send to us and we will send you this Violin and Outfit by express, C. O. D., subject to examination. Examine it at your express office and if found exactly as represented and the most wonderful bargain you ever saw or heard of, pay the express agent our special offer price, $2.35, less the 50 cents, or $2.75, and express charges. This is a regular $8.00 Stradivarius Model Violin, richly colored, highly polished, powerful and sweet in tone, complete with fine maple bow, one extra set of strings, violin case, rosin and one of the best instruction books published. Write for free musical instrument and organ and piano catalogue.

Address, SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., CHICAGO, ILL.

(Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

$3.20

For four full quart bottles,

EXPRESS PREPAID direct from distillery.

No middlemen's profits.

NO POSSIBILITY OF ADULTERATION.

For thirty years we have been distilling the best whiskey that can be made. Our reputation for making pure whiskey is as wide as America, and we have thousands of customers in every State in the Union.

OUR PROPOSITION.

We will send four full quart bottles of **HAYNER'S SEVEN YEAR OLD DOUBLE COPPER DISTILLED RYE** for **$3.20, EXPRESS PREPAID.** We ship in plain packages—no marks to indicate contents (which will avoid possible comment.) When you get it and test it, if it isn't satisfactory return it at our expense, and we will return your $3.20. Such whiskey cannot be purchased elsewhere for less than $5.00.

No other distiller sells to consumers direct. Others who offer you whiskey in this way are dealers buying and selling. Our whiskey has the Hayner reputation behind it.

References—Third Nat'l Bank, any business house in Dayton or Com'l Agencies.

HAYNER DISTILLING CO., 257-263 W. Fifth St., Dayton, O.

P. S.—Orders for Ariz., Colo., Cal., Idaho, Mont., Nev., N. Mex., Ore., Utah, Wash., Wyo., must call for 20 quarts, by freight, prepaid.

[This offer is genuine. We guarantee the above firm will do just as they agree.—EDITOR.]

$2.75 BOX RAIN COAT.

A REGULAR $5.00 WATERPROOF MACKINTOSH FOR $2.75.

Send no Money. Cut this ad. out and send to us, state your Height and Weight, state number of inches around body at Breast taken over vest under coat close up under arms, and we will send you this coat by express C. O. D., subject to examination; examine and try it on at your nearest express office and if found exactly as represented and the most wonderful value you ever saw or heard of and equal to any coat you can buy for $5.00, pay the express agent our special offer price, $2.75, and express charges.

THIS MACKINTOSH is latest 1899 style, made from heavy waterproof, tan color, genuine Davis Covert Cloth; extra long, double breasted, Sager velvet collar, fancy plaid lining, waterproof sewed, strapped and cemented seams, suitable for both rain or overcoat, and guaranteed greatest value ever offered by us or any other house. For Free Cloth Samples of Men's Mackintoshes up to $5.00, and Made-to-Measure Suits and Overcoats at from $5.00 to $10.00, write for Free Book No. 808. Address,

SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., CHICAGO, ILL.

(Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

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Star ★ Lathes

Foot power
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New and Original Features.

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WANTED RELIABLE MEN in every locality, local or traveling, to introduce a new discovery and keep our show cards tacked up on trees, fences, and bridges throughout town and country; steady employment; commission or salary: **$65.00 PER MONTH AND EXPENSES** not to exceed $2.50 per day; money deposited in any bank at start if desired. Write for particulars. THE GLOBE MEDICAL ELECTRIC CO., Buffalo, N. Y.

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BOTH SIDES ALIKE IN MAKE AND STAMP. LAUNDRYMEN CAN'T FIND A WRONG SIDE.

WHEN THE LINEN CRACKS ON ONE SIDE THE OTHER SIDE IS AS GOOD AS NEW.

MADE IN THREE GRADES, 2 FOR 25¢ (EQUAL TO FOUR FOR A QUARTER) 20¢ AND 25¢

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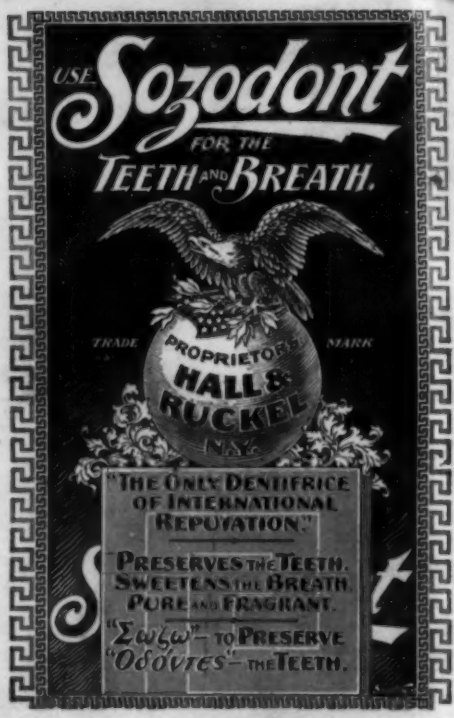
VOLUME TIGHT

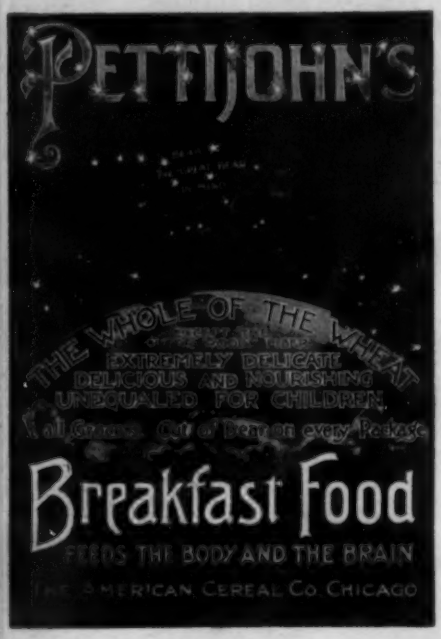
For the Hair.

Absolute Cure for Dandruff. Soothes all Irritation of the Scalp. The only preparation that makes the hair grow by nourishing the roots. Price, 50c. and $1.00 per bottle.

JOSEPH BURNETT CO.,
36 India Street, Boston, Mass.

Send your address for our pamphlet on the Hair, its care and management.





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CUSHION BUTTON HOSE SUPPORTER

No Stitching in the Elastic.

NEVER SLIPS OR TEARS.

OF ALL DEALERS.

Sample pair, by mail, 25 cts.

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NOW IN USE.

FISCHER PIANOS. ESTD 1840.

Offices and Factories:
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1851. THE PHOENIX MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY. 1898.

Send your Age to Home Office, and we will send you sample policies showing just what we have to offer.

E TIGHTLY BOUND

SOROSIS

THE NEW SHOE FOR WOMEN

Trade-Mark branded into the sole of every "Sorosis" shoe.

The Masterpiece of the Shoemaker's Art and Standard of the World.

If you do not wear Sorosis Shoes you are missing a luxury within your reach that has no parallel in footwear.

Worn by the leaders of fashion, and without question the most elegant in shape, the most beautiful in appearance, the most comfortable, and the best shoe ever offered womankind.

Sorosis Shoes support the instep and prevent flattening of the arch of the foot!

If possible, get them of your dealer. Provided he has only an imitation to offer,—and there are such,—write us, and we will forward, express paid, on receipt of retail price.

Send a postal for our handsomely illustrated catalogue containing testimonial letters from prominent women. It gives directions for ordering, and shows shapes and kinds for all occasions. 27 styles, including the new mannish models. **$3.50**

CAUTION!—*Avoid disappointment by declining to accept substitutes.*

A. E. LITTLE & CO., 52 Blake Street, LYNN, MASS.

1851. THE PHOENIX MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, 1898. Send your age to Home Office, and we will send you sample policies showing just what we have to offer.

MELLIN'S FOOD

Our little boy, now nearly nine months old, weighs 23½ pounds. We commenced the use of Mellin's Food when he was about three months old, after using several other foods, but none seemed to agree with him until we used Mellin's. I shall always recommend Mellin's Food as the most perfect food for infants.

Mrs. Harry W. Street,
Rowayton, Conn.

A sturdy, robust, happy childhood is the result of feeding a baby on Mellin's Food.

Upon request, a sample of Mellin's Food will be sent free of charge.

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In the Dark Stewart's Duplex Safety Pins

work as easily as in the light. They fasten from either side, but cannot slip through.

IN ALL SIZES.

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March 7, '82
June 18, '89

NOTICE THE GUARD

A Guard on the inside of spring positively prevents tearing the fabric. If your dealer will not supply you, **send 3 two-cent stamps** for samples of 12 assorted sizes.

Made in Nickel and Jet Black.

CONSOLIDATED SAFETY PIN CO.,
Box K, BLOOMFIELD, N. J.

MENNEN'S BORATED TALCUM TOILET POWDER

A positive relief for Prickly Heat, Chafing, and Sunburn, and all afflictions of the skin. "A little higher in price than worthless substitutes, but a reason for it." Removes all odor of perspiration. Delightful after shaving. Sold everywhere, or mailed on receipt of 25 cents. Get Mennen's (the original).

Sample free. GERHARD MENNEN CO., Newark, N. J.

Kisses are Sweetest

when taken from mouths that know delicious

Arnica Tooth Soap

Preserves and whitens the teeth, strengthens the gums, sweetens the breath. Is antiseptic, cooling, refreshing.

The standard dentifrice for 30 years. 25c at all druggists or by mail.

C. H. STRONG & CO., • CHICAGO, U. S. A.

A Perfect Breakfast

Breakfast has to supply the brain and muscle for the husband's daily battle. It must contain brain and nerve food. It must be a tissue builder. It must be easy to cook and easy to digest. To be just right it must include Quaker Oats.

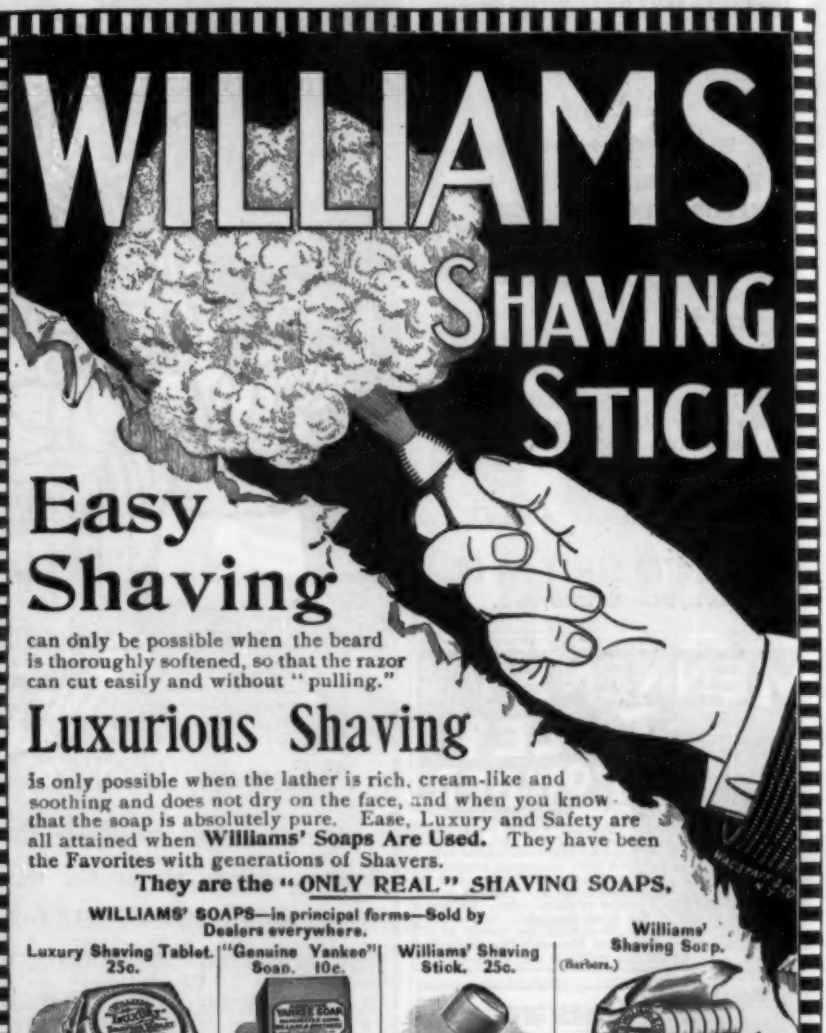
THE EASY FOOD

Quaker Oats

THE WORLD'S BREAKFAST

ACCEPT NO SUBSTITUTE

WILLIAMS SHAVING STICK



Easy Shaving

can only be possible when the beard is thoroughly softened, so that the razor can cut easily and without "pulling."

Luxurious Shaving

is only possible when the lather is rich, cream-like and soothing and does not dry on the face, and when you know that the soap is absolutely pure. Ease, Luxury and Safety are all attained when **Williams' Soaps Are Used.** They have been the Favorites with generations of Shavers.

They are the "ONLY REAL" SHAVING SOAPS.

WILLIAMS' SOAPS—in principal forms—Sold by Dealers everywhere.

Luxury Shaving Tablet. 25c.

Round—just fits the cup. Delicate perfume.

"Genuine Yankee" Soap. 10c.

Oldest and most famous shaving soap in the world.

Williams' Shaving Stick. 25c.

Williams' Shaving Soap. (Barbers.)

This is the kind your barber should use. Exquisite also for Toilet and Bath. Used in thousands of the best families. Sure cure for "chapped hands." Six cakes in a package, 40c. Trial sample for 2c. stamp.

If your dealer fails to supply you—we mail these soaps to any address, post-paid, on receipt of price.

Address The J. B. Williams Co., Glastonbury, Ct., U.S.A.

London: 64 Great Russell St., W. C. Sydney, Australia: 161 Clarence St.

Williams' Glycerated Tar Soap, 15c.

Free Sample upon application to

J. A. POZZONI PHARMACAL CO.,

ST. LOUIS, MO.

THIS BUSINESS ADVERTISES ITSELF.

One of the unique features of the New York Central's "Lake Shore Limited" is the fact that it advertises itself.

The magnificence of the service and completeness of detail makes every patron an advertiser of its merits.

It is estimated that every person who travels by this train brings at least a dozen new patrons.

"The Lake Shore Limited" leaves Grand Central Station, New York, every afternoon at 5.00, and arrives Chicago via Lake Shore & Michigan Southern Railway the next afternoon at 4.00.

Returning, leaves Chicago 5.30 P. M. each day, arrives New York 6.30 next afternoon.

The New York Central has issued a booklet descriptive of "The Lake Shore Limited," which also contains an epitome of what may be seen from the Observation Car as the train progresses on its daily run between New York and Chicago. Send for a copy to George H. Daniels, General Passenger Agent, Grand Central Station, New York.

WARM
STRONG
DURABLE
HANDSOME

are our $3 large gauntlet black fur gloves, by mail prepaid. Send your address and receive our printed folder. It will interest you if you ever drive in cold weather. We also custom tan all kinds of fur skins.

THE CROSBY FRISIAN FUR COMPANY,

116 Mill Street,
Rochester, N. Y.

FROM EVERY VIEW POINT.

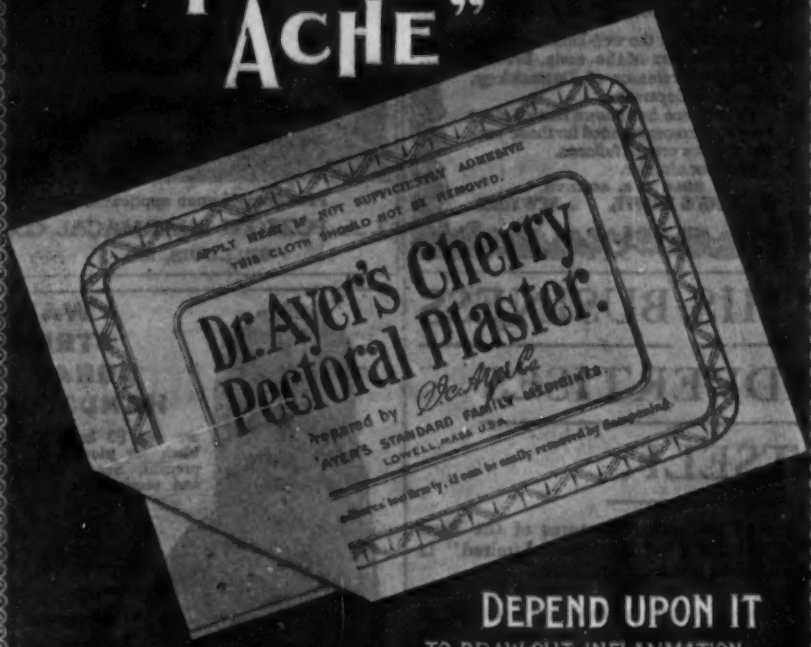
In traveling, the four most important points to be considered are safety, punctuality of service, comfort, and speed. The Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railway combines them all. Its road-bed and equipment surpass those of any other railway in America. And the fact that the United States Government has selected this road for the fast mail trains proves that punctuality and speed are part of its daily routine.

If you contemplate a trip between Buffalo and Cleveland, Toledo, Chicago, or points in the West and Southwest, be sure and travel over the Lake Shore.

You feel its drawing, soothing, strengthening power at once.

"IT TAKES THE ACHE"

Dr. Ayer's Cherry Pectoral Plaster



DEPEND UPON IT
TO DRAW OUT INFLAMMATION
TO STRENGTHEN A WEAK BACK
TO QUIET PAIN, CONTROL CONGESTION
TO TAKE AWAY SORENESS IN THE CHEST.

PUT THE PLASTER OVER THE PAIN.

SOLD BY ALL DRUGGISTS. PRICE 25 CENTS.
If your druggist cannot supply you, send 25 cents in stamps to J. C. AYER CO., LOWELL, MASS.

THE FAMOUS

"Queen Quality" Shoe

For Women. Price $3.00.

In presenting "Queen Quality" we have placed before the WOMEN OF AMERICA a shoe of exceptional value for $3 00.

THE HIGHEST QUALITY
of material and workmanship.

Made in fashions suitable for street, dress, home, or outing. All modern toes, varying from the dressy Paris to the broad common sense.

For retaining their shape and fitting where others fail, they have no equal.

This trade-mark on every pair.

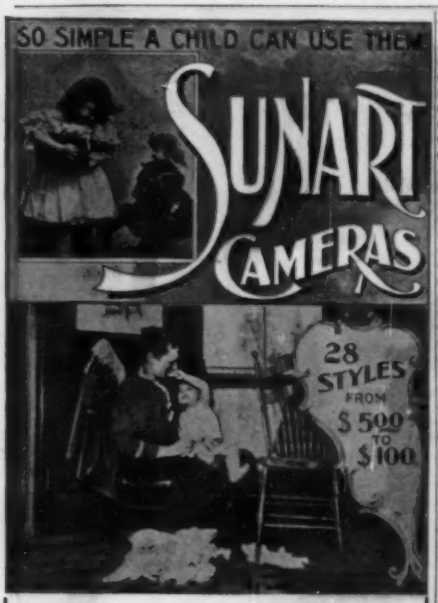
Queen Quality $3.00 TRADE MARK

Foerderer's "Vici Kid" used exclusively.

Seventeen of thirty different styles are represented here. When ordering use style number.

If your dealer hasn't them, send for FREE catalogue and where to buy them.

THOS. G. PLANT CO., Makers,
Boston, Mass.



Send 2c. Stamp for Catalogue **SUNART PHOTO CO.**
91 AQUEDUCT ST., ROCHESTER, N. Y.

RAY Cameras

Have won their reputation from the fact that they are the **Best that Money, Labor, and Skill** can produce.

15 different styles from $2.50 *to* $32.00

A SUITABLE XMAS PRESENT
Nothing more instructive or useful.

Pictures can be made at night with one of our **Ray Flash Lamps.** Ask to see them.

Our complete Catalogue of Cameras, Outfits, Sundries, etc., with half-tone cuts, **free** on application.

MUTSCHLER, ROBERTSON & CO.,
168 W. MAIN ST., - ROCHESTER, N. Y.

The Niagara Jr.

IS A PERFECT AND COMPLETE

Camera for 35 cts.

Guaranteed to take out-door and interior pictures 2½ x 2½ inches equal to any higher price camera made. Specially ground lense. Shutter arranged for Snap-Shot and Time Exposures. Uses glass plates.

Sent to any address, prepaid, upon receipt of **35 CENTS** in stamps or coin.

NIAGARA CAMERA CO.,
331-333 Main St. BUFFALO, N. Y.

PLAYS Dialogues, Speakers for School, Club and Parlor. Catalogue free. **T. S. DENISON,** Publisher, Chicago, Ill.

National Dramatic Conservatory

F. F. MACKAY and ELEANOR GEORGEN, Directors. Special instruction for the stage, pulpit, bar and platform. Student performances. Special preparatory classes for teachers. Prospectus mailed on application.

THE NATIONAL DRAMATIC CONSERVATORY, Berkeley Lyceum, 14 West 44th Street, New York.

STAMPS. **50** diff. genuine Cuba, Pto. Rico, Philippine Isl., Mexico, Egypt, etc., with small album, **only 5c.** Approval sheets at **50** per cent. Agents wanted. **New** 80-page Price List **Free!** *Established 1865.*
STANDARD STAMP CO., St. Louis, Mo.

CAMERAS Send for Circular. **LORD & CO., 529 Broadway, New York City.**

THE GREAT AMERICAN TEA COMPANY

TEA SET FREE,

Toilet Set, Watch, Lamp, Clock, and many other Household Articles

with $5.00, $7.00 and $10.00 orders of our celebrated Teas, Coffees, Baking Powder, Spices and Extracts. Great inducements. Something entirely new. Price List Free.

THE GREAT AMERICAN TEA CO.,
31 and 33 Vesey St., N. Y., P. O. Box 289.

$10 $10

The Embodiment of Photographic Utility and Daintiness is to be found in the

Folding Pocket Kodak

Only 1½ inches in thickness when closed, yet takes pictures 2¼ x 3¼ inches. Fitted with the finest achromatic lens, improved self setting shutter, two finders and set of three stops.

Made of Aluminum; covered with finest grain leather. **Loads in Daylight** with our light-proof film cartridges.

Winter Kodaking is made doubly delightful by the pictures of the family group at the Thanksgiving table and at the Christmas tree; by flash lights of one's friends taken in the long evenings of the holiday season; pictures which have an ever increasing value to their owner as the years go by. And out of doors the amateur photographer captures Nature in her sterner moods—secures pictures that are delightfully different from those of the summer landscape, finding that the snow-clad hills and leafless trees offer as many opportunities for artistic work as do the gentler scenes of summer.

Kodaks $5.00 to $35.00.

EASTMAN KODAK CO.

Catalogues free of dealers or by mail. Rochester, N. Y.

LOST 40 lbs. OF FAT.

Are you too stout?

If so, why not reduce your weight and be comfortable? Obesity is a disease and predisposes to Heart Trouble, Paralysis, Liver Disease, Rheumatism, Apoplexy, etc., and is not only dangerous, but extremely annoying to people of refined taste. We do not care how many reduction remedies you may have taken without success, we have a simple treatment that will reduce weight, as thousands can testify. The following are a few of the thousands who have been reduced in weight and greatly improved in health by its use.

Reduced

Mr. W. A. Pollock, Hartington, Neb. **50** lbs.
Mrs. M. M. Cummins, Ottawa, Ill. . . **78** „
Miss M. Hoisington, LakeView, Mich. **50** „
Miss M. Nobles, Racine, Wis. **54** „

MRS. HELEN WEBER, of Marietta, O., says: "*It reduced my weight 40 lbs. without sickness or any inconvenience whatever.*"

We are going to give away barrels and

Barrels of Sample Boxes Free

just to prove how effective, pleasant, and safe this remedy is to reduce weight. If you want one, send us your name and address at once. IT COSTS YOU NOTHING TO TRY IT. Each box is sent in a plain sealed package with no advertising on it to indicate what it contains. Correspondence strictly confidential.

Hall Chemical Co., K. A. Box, St. Louis, Mo.

WATCH AND CHAIN FOR ONE DAY'S WORK.

Boys and Girls can get a Nickel-Plated Watch, also a Chain and Charm for selling 1½ doz. Packages of Bluine at 10 cents each. Send your full address by return mail and we will forward the Bluine, post-paid, and a large Premium List. No money required.

BLUINE CO., Box A. Concord Junction, Mass.

SEND US ONE DOLLAR

AND THIS AD. and we will send you this BIG 800-pound new RESERVOIR STOVE by freight C.O.D., subject to examination, examine it at your freight depot, and if found perfectly satisfactory, and the GREATEST STOVE BARGAIN you ever saw or heard of, pay the freight agent Our Special Price, $11.50, less the $1 sent with order, or $10.50 and freight charges.

This stove is size 8x18; oven is 18x17x11; top, 24x44; height, 28½. Made from best pig iron, large flues, cut tops, heavy cut centers, heavy corners, heavy linings, with very heavy sectional fire-back, large bailed ash pan, slide hearth-plate and side oven-shelf, pouch feed, oven door kicker, heavy tin-lined oven door, handsome nickel trimmings on doors, front, sides, etc. Extra large, deep, porcelain-lined reservoir. Best Coal Burner made, and we furnish an extra wood grate, making it a perfect wood burner.

WE ISSUE A BINDING GUARANTEE with every stove. Your local dealer would ask at least $20.00 for such a stove; order this and you will save at least $8.00. The freight is only about $1.00 for each 500 miles.

Our New Free Stove Catalogue Shows the most complete line of 1899 stoves, ranges and heaters at $1.95 and up. THIS NEW BIG 800-POUND ACME QUEEN RESERVOIR COAL STOVE at $11.50, one dollar with order, is a wonder of value. Order at once before our stock is sold. Address, SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., Cheapest Supply House on Earth, Fulton, Desplaines and Wayman Sts., CHICAGO, ILL.

(Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

COSTS YOU NOTHING TO TRY IT.

THE NATURAL BODY BRACE

Cures Female Weakness, Restores Health and Vigor, Makes Walking and Work Easy.

We receive thousands of letters similar to this:

Owensboro, Ky., Jan. 1, 1897.

"I wouldn't be without my brace, for it has cured me of all female troubles. Had suffered twelve years with laceration, ulceration, etc., with backache, headache, bearing down, constipation, painful menstruation, ovarian pains, etc. Have had Brace a year, and haven't been in bed an hour from any illness since.

Mrs. J. K. Hunter says the same and you can use our names if you wish. A young lady friend said to me not long ago: 'I don't care where I have a pain, the Brace relieves it.' Other friends have told me of their delight with the Brace."

MRS. AUSTIN BERRY.

Money Refunded If Brace is not satisfactory. Send for full information with illustrated book, free.

The Natural Body Brace Co.,
HOWARD O. RASH, Mgr.
Box 50, Salina, Kansas.

Every Woman anticipating Motherhood should have this Brace.

"Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup."

CHILDREN TEETHING

FOR OVER FIFTY YEARS.

An Old and Well-Tried Remedy.

MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP

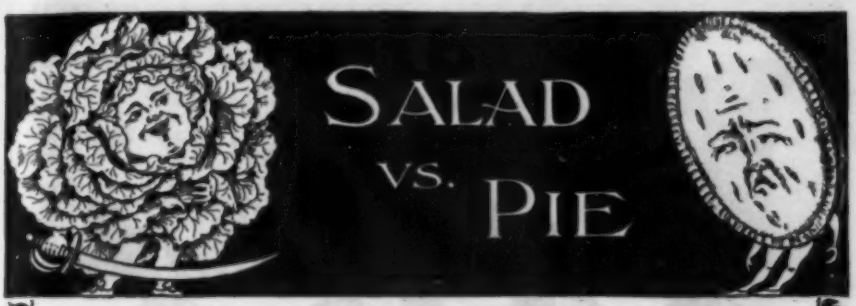
has been used for over **fifty years** by **millions of mothers** for their **children while teething,** with **perfect success. It soothes the child, softens the gums, allays all pain; cures wind colic,** and is the best remedy for **diarrhœa.** Sold by Druggists in every part of the world.

BE SURE AND ASK FOR

MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP,

And take no other kind.

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS A BOTTLE.



Doctor Morrell, of London, one of the vice-presidents of the International Medical Congress at Washington, when asked by a cabinet officer, "What advice can you give a person who is a martyr to dyspepsia?" drew forth his card and wrote:—

"Eat Salads instead of Sweets,"

and added by way of directions, "*see that your salads are properly dressed.*"

The soundness of this advice is proved by the fact that the salad-eating nations of the world are strangers to our national complaint.

Vegetable salads act like a safety valve upon the human system. They carry off the excess of heat, cool the blood, nourish the nerves, and form nutrition for the whole body. Some of our choicest vegetables, when eaten raw, in the form of properly dressed salads, retain valuable health-giving elements which are entirely lost when the vegetables are cooked.

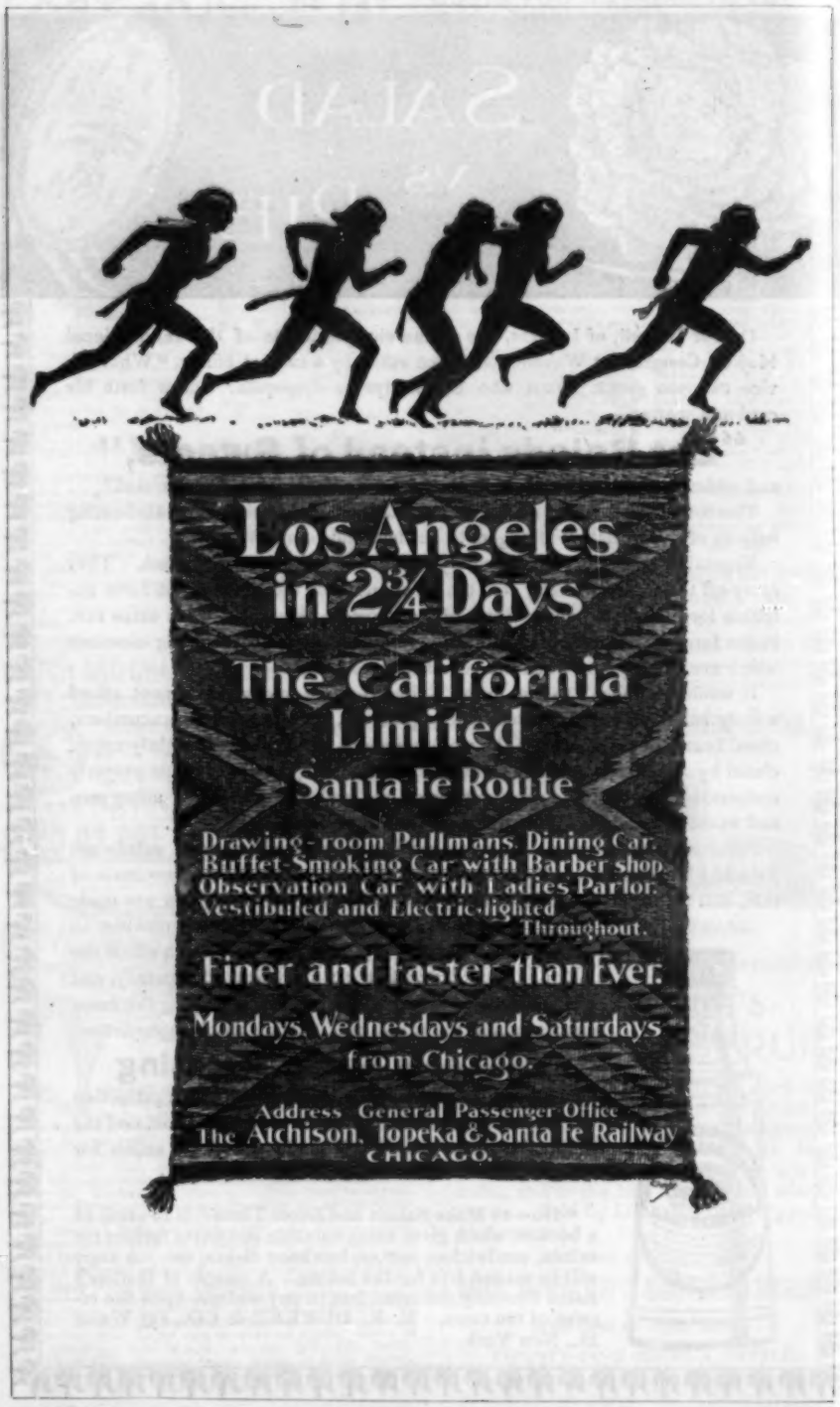
It would be difficult to find in the United States a family that cannot afford a daily salad of either lettuce, celery, potatoes, radishes, carrots, cucumbers, cress, beans, or peas; and, if the wholesomeness of salads were rightly appreciated by Americans, and the simple way of rendering them palatable properly understood, salads would soon supersede pie, and aid millions of ailing men and women in making rapid strides up the hill of health.

But, just as some people are "covered but not clothed," so most salads are "messed but not dressed." A dash too much of this or a drop too little of that, and the salad is spoiled. And, just as the best-fitting clothes are made by those who make a specialty of clothes making, so the best salad dressing is made by the house with whom the making of salad dressing has for years been a study, and which possesses unlimited facilities for procuring the finest condiments in the world, and insuring absolute *perfection*.

Durkee's Salad Dressing

has, by reason of its purity, palatableness, and perfection of combination, achieved a world-wide reputation, and the family that once uses it will gladly substitute salads for sweets.

"How to Make Salads and Dress Them" is the title of a booklet which gives many valuable and novel recipes for salads, sandwiches, sauces, luncheon dishes, etc. A copy will be mailed free for the asking. A sample of Durkee's Salad Dressing delivered free to any address upon the receipt of ten cents. E. R. DURKEE & CO., 157 Water St., New York.


Los Angeles
in 2¾ Days
The California
Limited
Santa Fe Route
Drawing-room Pullmans. Dining Car.
Buffet-Smoking Car with Barber shop.
Observation Car with Ladies Parlor.
Vestibuled and Electric-lighted
Throughout.
Finer and Faster than Ever.
Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays
from Chicago.
Address General Passenger Office
The Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway
CHICAGO.

We refund your money any time within 60 days.

This will enable you, **without risk,** to test

THE "PRACTICAL" TROUSERS HANGER AND PRESS.

A device which keeps Trousers **"Smooth as if ironed"** and enables a closet arrangement which gives **maximum convenience** and **two-fold** capacity. **Each garment separately get-at-able.**

Our 32-page descriptive booklet (free on request) tells you what other people think of our device. It contains **facsimile** reproductions of letters from customers sending us **duplicate orders**—the strongest kind of endorsement—and the names of over 1,500 well-known gentlemen who have in use one or more of our **$3.00** sets.

The Five Dollar Set consists of 6 Practical Trousers Hangers and 3 Practical Closet Rods—sent express prepaid on receipt of price. The closet shown is fitted with a **$5.00** set. It meets the average requirements. Single Trousers Hangers, **75c.** each. Single Rods, price **25c.** For **$1.00** we will send, prepaid, one Hanger and one Rod, and afterward, if wanted, the remainder of the set for **$4.00.**

PRACTICAL NOVELTY CO.,
436 Walnut Street, - - Philadelphia, Pa.

"TRIX"

TRIX CO., ROCHESTER N.Y.

SIX MONTHS FOR 10 CTS.

We send our handsome 16 to 20-page monthly family paper devoted to Stories, Dreams, Astrology, advice on Love Affairs, Prizes for Answers to Correspondents, Enigmas, Puzzles, etc., for six months for only 10 cents if you send us the names and addresses of ten of your friends. Our paper is one of the most unique and interesting published. Address THE PARAGON MONTHLY, 28 North William St., N. Y. City.

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BRACE UP

and take comfort by wearing our **PATENT SHIRT YOKE SUSPENDER.** Cannot slip off shoulders. Prevents bunching shirt at back of neck. Shirt **cannot** work up from trousers when stooping. They are cool and comfortable. A complete suspender. Send 25 cents in stamps (also height and weight) for sample pair.

E. H. HUTCHINSON,
235 Emerson Place, Brooklyn, N. Y.

$2.75 BOX RAIN COAT.

A REGULAR $5.00 WATERPROOF MACKINTOSH FOR $2.75.

Send no Money. Cut this ad. out and send to us, state your Height and Weight, state number of inches around body at Breast taken over vest under coat close up under arms, and we will send you this coat by express C. O. D., subject to examination; examine and try it on at your nearest express office and if found exactly as represented and the most wonderful value you ever saw or heard of and equal to any coat you can buy for $5.00, pay the express agent our special offer price, $2.75, and express charges.

THIS MACKINTOSH is latest 1899 style, made from heavy waterproof, tan color, genuine Davis Covert Cloth; extra long, double breasted, Sager velvet collar, fancy plaid lining, waterproof sewed, strapped and cemented seams, suitable for both rain or overcoat, and guaranteed greatest value ever offered by us or any other house. For Free Cloth Samples of Men's Mackintoshes up to $5.00, and Made-to-Measure Suits and Overcoats at from $8.00 to $18.00, write for Free Book No. 80B. Address,

SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., CHICAGO, ILL.
(Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

Best Christmas Gift. | A year's subscription to The Black Cat, 50 cts., postage paid.

Wonderful Invention

Tones Every Organ and Nerve in the System

Every home should have our New Improved Thermal Vapor Bath Cabinet (recently patented). It opens the several million pores all over the body, and sweats out of the system all impure and poisonous matter which causes disease. Gives absolute cleanliness and, without medicine, keeps the body healthy and vigorous. Will cure a hard cold and break up all symptoms of typhoid and other fevers with one bath. Reduces surplus flesh; cures rheumatism and all blood, skin, nerve, kidney diseases. You will have all the invigorating, cleansing and purifying effects of the most luxurious Turkish, hot-air, or medicated bath at a trifling cost.

The Rev. J. W. Bailey, D. D., Topeka, Kans., recommends this Thermal Bath Cabinet highly for nervous diseases. S. R. May, Haven, Kans., suffered fifteen years with rheumatism. After using our Bath Cabinet a short time he was entirely cured. Dr. Wm. F. Holcombe, one of New York's oldest and best known specialists, recommends this Cabinet for Bright's disease and all kidney troubles, and also says it is the greatest cure known for pneumonia.

Ladies should have our Complexion Steamer, used in conjunction with the Cabinet, in which the face is given the same vapor treatment as the body. The only harmless and sure method of drawing away all impurities, leaving the skin clear and soft as velvet. It is the only cure for pimples, blotches, and other disfiguring sores and blemishes. Invaluable for the successful treatment of Catarrh and Asthma.

FREE Descriptive Book and Testimonials to all who write. Special Inducements to Agents.

MOLLENKOPP & McCREERY, 124 Summit St. Toledo, O.

THE INVALID'S FRIEND.

Wheel Chair. All styles and prices.
Send stamp for catalogue.

RATTAN MFG. CO.,
New Haven, Conn.

SPECIAL DISCOUNT TO U. S. SOLDIERS.

THE DANN PATENT RECLINING GO-CART.

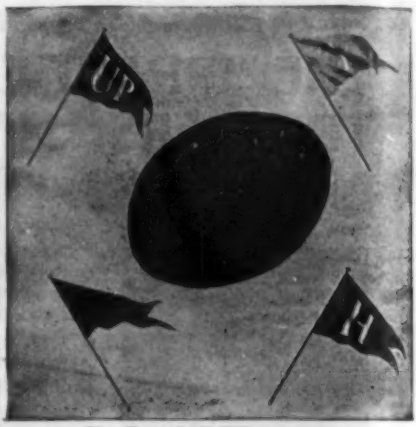
The most popular child's vehicle made, allows child to change position and yet sit comfortable all the time. Suitable for young babe or five year old child.

Send stamp for illustrated catalogue.

GEO. E. DANN, NEW HAVEN, CONN.

PILLOW COVERS.

Size 24 x 24 Inches.



The Foot-ball Pillow-cover.

This striking and original design is just now quite the popular and "swagger" thing among feminine admirers of manly sport. By our wonderful new process of reproducing colors upon textile fabrics, the official colors of the famous colleges on their respective flags, and the foot-ball on a sky-blue background—as if flying through space—are perfectly reproduced in all their delicate colorings, upon fine, strong cloth all ready to put together. (They are not to be worked.)

Sent by mail for 56 cents, or two for $1.00.

Many beautiful pillow-cover and tapestry art-panel designs, and exquisite etchings on satin are shown in our new fall catalogue. Sent free for 2-cent stamp to pay postage. It is in itself a work of art.

Textile Novelty Co., Dept. B, 76 Elm St., N. Y

For Men, Women and Children. Address,
The N. C. & Rubber Mfg. Co.,
135 Huron St., TOLEDO, OHIO. Catalogue Free.
RUBBER GOODS

$10.00 To $30.00 and expenses can be made EVERY DAY with our NEW IMPROVED GRAPHOPHONE TALKING-MACHINE. Price reduced to $10.00. No previous experience necessary. A wonder as a home entertainer. All the latest Music, Songs, Speeches or your own voice. Complete Outfits, consisting of Machine with automatic spring motor which runs 2 records with one winding, Hearing Tubes, Concert Horn, 12 Musical or Talking Records, large size Show Bills, Admission Tickets, Etc., for $15.25. An opportunity to make BIG MONEY EASY giving public entertainments. Just the thing for Church and Sunday-school entertainments. Anyone can operate them. Send for FREE Catalogue of Graphophones, Records, Etc. with hundreds of testimonials from those who are making big money with our Graphophone Outfits, or, by sending ONE DOLLAR we will send the outfit by express C. O. D., subject to examination, balance payable when received. Address,

SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.) CHICAGO, ILL

(Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable—Editor.)

CURED TO STAY CURED
ASTHMA
Dr. HAYES, Buffalo, N. Y.

As to the Improved

GRAM=O=PHONE
ZON=O=PHONE...

Do not confound it with anything of a similar name or nature
It isn't a "business" machine
You don't "talk into it"

Its sole purpose is that of Entertainment—
Reproducing Everything in Speech or Music, with fidelity to the originals positively marvelous

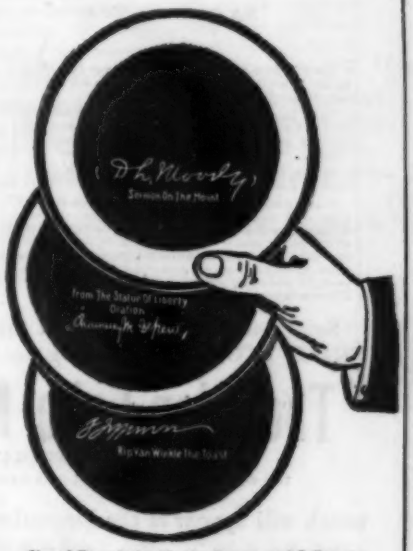
Suited alike to Parlor, Lawn, Yacht, or Exhibition Hall. With an ordinary horn it has been heard in every part of the great Metropolitan Opera House, New York. Its cornet solos have been heard two miles.

Our records are **made by experts**, from actual performances of the most celebrated instrumentalists, bands, singers, actors, and orators in the world.

These records, instead of being wax, to be kept in cotton, and handled as if they were egg-shells, are on hard, flat disks which are practically indestructible—**the only permanent records made.**

As a guarantee of authenticity each record (except a few of the earliest ones) is **signed.** Among the records whose genuineness is thus attested by the autographs of their makers are those of

HON. CHAUNCEY M. DEPEW
ADA REHAN
JESSIE BARTLETT DAVIS
JOSEPH JEFFERSON
DWIGHT L. MOODY
REV. T. DE WITT TALMAGE
SOUSA'S BAND
BANDA ROSSA, ETC.



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This office is just in receipt of Catalogue No. 107, issued by Sears, Roebuck & Co., of Chicago, a vast department store boiled down, so that you can sit down at your desk or table in your own home, and select just such goods as you want, and everything is made so plain by large, handsome, clear illustrations, plainly written descriptions and prices in plain figures, that every one can order by mail; have the advantage of such a vast variety to select from and such very low prices that it certainly is not strange that these big department stores which issue these big catalogues are attracting the attention of buyers everywhere in every walk of life. Sears, Roebuck & Co.'s Catalogue is certainly a merchandise encyclopædia, a book of 1,120 pages, weighing nearly 4 pounds, and while it requires 30 cents postage alone to mail it, they send it postpaid to any address on receipt of only 15 cents to help pay the postage. Everything you will find in the largest department stores, everything that is offered for sale in any kind of a store anywhere, is found complete in this catalogue, and so plainly illustrated and described, and priced so low, that it is not strange that people are so anxious to get this book, and that so many send to this house for their goods. We are informed that it requires seventy carloads of paper to print their Fall edition of this catalogue, fifty large printing presses running night and day to print them, and $150,000.00 in postage stamps to mail them. — *Christian Index.*

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SEND NO MONEY, cut this ad. out and send to us, **state your height and weight, bust measure, length of garment** from collar down back to waist line, and waist line to bottom of skirt; state color wanted and we will send you this mackintosh by express C. O. D., subject to examination; examine and try it on at your nearest express office and if found exactly as represented and by far the greatest value you ever saw or heard of, pay your express agent **OUR SPECIAL OFFER PRICE, $2.95,** and express charges.

THIS MACKINTOSH is made of **BLACK** or **BLUE** genuine **RAINSLEY** double texture, waterproof **SERGE CLOTH,** with fancy plaid lining, velvet collar, double detachable cape, extra full sweep cape and skirt, guaranteed latest style and finest tailor-made.

FOR FREE CLOTH SAMPLES of everything in ladies' mackintoshes, write for free Sample Book No. 95 C. ADDRESS,

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(Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

SPECIAL $2.75

EXAMINATION FREE. Cut this ad out and send to us; SEND NO MONEY. State your HEIGHT and WEIGHT, number of inches around body at Bust and Neck, whether Black or Blue is wanted, and we will send you this cape by express C. O. D., subject to examination. You can examine and try it on at your nearest express office, and if found exactly as represented, and the best value you ever saw or heard of, and far cheaper than any other house can offer, pay the express agent our special price, $2.75 and express charges.

THIS CAPE is the very latest style for Fall and Winter, made of Black or Blue all-wool genuine Clayton Beaver Cloth, 28 inches long, very full sweep, 12-inch upper cape and large storm collar, beautifully edged with fine Black Baltic Seal, trimmed with one row wide and three rows narrow Mohair braid. This garment is fine tailor-made throughout and equal to capes that sell at more than double our price. Write for our free Cloak Catalogue of everything in women's and children's wear. Address, SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.) Fulton, Desplaines and Wayman Sts., CHICAGO, ILL.

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WE WANT FASCINATING STORIES CLEVERLY TOLD. Writers may choose their own themes; but love stories, detective stories, ghost stories, stories of adventure and mystery are preferred. No poems desired. Each story must be original and so full of incident and action as to interest intelligent people everywhere. Clean, clever, wholesome stories, that are free from padding, foreign phrases, and attempted fine writing are what we want.

CONDITIONS.—All MSS. must bear a pen name, together with number of words, which may range from 1,800 to 10,000. In a separate sealed envelope accompanying each MS., marked on the outside with the pen name of the writer, must be the author's full name and address. As all stories will positively be judged on their merits, the writer's name or reputation will carry no weight whatever. Postage must be fully prepaid and accompanied by addressed and stamped envelope for their return. All letters relating to same must be enclosed with MS. and *not under separate cover*. All MSS. will be received and returned only at the writer's risk. With every MS. intended for this special prize competition must be enclosed **in the same envelope $1.00 to pay for one year's subscription to THE GENTLEWOMAN.** Write the name and address of the subscriber on a separate slip of paper, so that same can be turned over to our subscription department. This slip will positively not be seen by those who read and judge the stories, nor will they know the real name of the contributor until after awards are made. All envelopes containing MSS. and subscription must be plainly marked **"Prize Stories."** Their receipt will be promptly acknowledged. Competitors may send as many stories as they please, provided the above conditions are complied with in each case. The competition will close January 30, 1899, after which prizes will be paid in gold, and also announced in **THE GENTLEWOMAN.**

MSS. that fail to be included in the prize awards and are deemed worthy of publication in **THE GENTLEWOMAN** will be paid for at our regular rates; balance will be returned. The conditions and requirements being here fully set forth, neither the publishers nor editor can enter into correspondence relative thereto. All MSS. must be addressed

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THE PRUDENTIAL

VOLUME XV. NEWARK, N. J., AUGUST, 1898. NUMBER 4.

Helping a Hero's Widow.

GEORGE H. ELLIS, Chief Yeoman of the Brooklyn, the only man killed in the great naval action off Santiago on July 3, which resulted in the destruction of Cervera's entire fleet and the capture of the Admiral, officers and men, was insured in The Prudential—had been for ten years. When fifteen years of age a small policy was issued to his parents on the boy's life, and later a second policy. The aggregate of the two policies—over $350—was promptly paid to the young widow, Mrs. Sarah M. Ellis, who resides at 819 Dunn street, Brooklyn. She is left with an infant seven months old. The crew of the Brooklyn have raised a fund of about $1,000 for Mrs. Ellis, so that with the pension she will receive from the Government, she and her little one are secured against pecuniary distress. Yeoman Ellis was twenty-five years of age. The office of Yeoman is an important one. The Yeoman has charge of all the ship's stores, such as rigging, armament, ammunition, paint, oil, canvas, everything, literally, from a needle to an anchor—that is, everything outside of the food, clothing, cash and medical stores. He keeps account of everything on board the ship in the way of ship supplies, and issues nothing to any one on board, not even a broom or a marline spike, without an order from the executive officer. He heads the list of first-class petty officers and ranks with a Sergeant Major in the army.

The following communication explains itself:

John F. Dryden, Esq.,
Pres't of Prudential Insurance Co.
Dear Sir:—

I desire to express my thanks to you for the prompt payment of the insurance on my late husband, George H. Ellis' policies, who was killed in the naval battle at Santiago, July 3, 1898.

I recommend very highly The Prudential Insurance Company, as I received $11.16 more than my policies called for.

Very respectfully,
Sarah M. Ellis.

Mohammed on True Charity.

EVERY GOOD act is charity: Your smiling in your brother's face; your putting a wanderer in the right road; your giving water to the thirsty, is charity; exhortation to another to do right is charity. A man's true wealth hereafter is the good he has done in this world to his fellow-men. When he dies people will ask, What property has he left behind? But the angels will ask, What good deeds has he sent before him?—*From a Sermon by Mohammed.*

Age of "Old Glory."

"Old Glory" is older than the present flag of Great Britain, which was established in 1801; than the flag of Spain, which was established in 1785; than the French tricolor, decreed in 1794; than the flag of Portugal, established in 1830; than the Italian tricolor, established in 1848; than the flags of the old Empires of China and Japan, and of the Empire of Germany, which represents the sovereignty of fourteen distinct States, established in 1870.

The Largest in the World.

THE new 126-ton gun, intended to be placed on Romer Shoal, just north of Sandy Hook, New York, and now receiving its finishing touches at Watervliet arsenal, is the largest cannon in the world, six tons heavier and five feet longer than the

Her Pups.

My pups 's all dressed up to-day,
He never looked so fine,
I thought when I first looked at him,
My pups was n't mine.

He's got a beautiful new suit—
The old one was so slim.
It's blue, with buttons, O, so bright,
I guess they must be gold.

And pups 's sort o' glad and sort
O' sad—I wonder why?
And every time she looks at him
It makes my mamma cry.

Who 's Uncle Sam? My pups says
That he belongs to him;
But pups 's joking, 'cause he knows
My uncle's name is Jim.

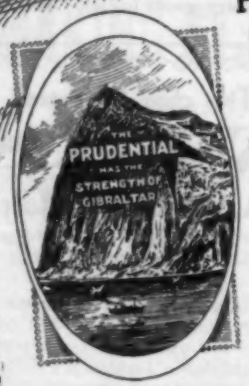
My pups just belongs to me
And mamma. And I guess
The folks are blind who cannot see
His buttons, marked U. S.

U. S. spells us. He 's ours—and yet
My mamma can't help cry,
And pups tries to smile at me
And can't—I wonder why?

—*Mary Fenton Bradford in Inter-Ocean.*

Great Men's Opinions of Women.

The society of ladies is the school of politeness.—*Montesquieu.*



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Ladies: Send 25c. for fine pair or 30c. for extra fine pair of **Wiley's "CAPITOL"** (Trade-Mark Registered) **Lambs Wool Soles** for crocheted slippers. Sent postpaid on receipt of price. State size. Sold at shoe and department stores. **Take no substitute.**

Send 25c. for pair of **Wiley's Hygienic Wool Lined "ALASKA SOCKS,"** for rubber boots, hospital and house wear. *Only antiseptic sock made.* State size. Sold at all shoe stores.

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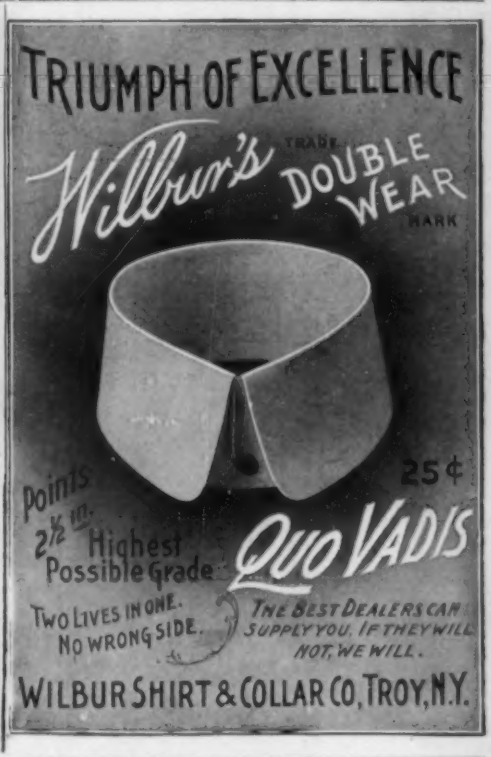

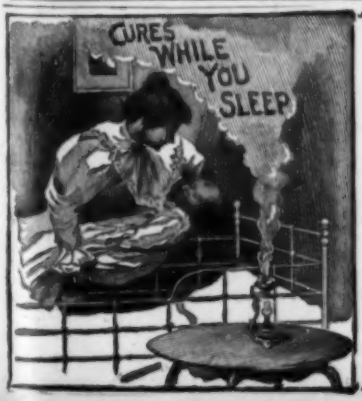

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Items from physicians' statements in our Descriptive Booklet. Send for it.

"Have found it of such great value in Whooping Cough, Croup and other spasmodic coughs, that I have instructed every family under my direction to secure one." "It is of great value in Diphtheria." "It gives relief in Asthma. The apparatus is simple and inexpensive." Sold by all druggists.

VAPO-CRESOLENE CO., 69 Wall St., New York.
Schieffelin & Co., New York, U.S. Agents.

VOLUME TIGHTLY BOUND

BURNETT'S VANILLA EXTRACT.

At this time when there are so many spurious imitations of this most delicious flavor sold—and cases of sickness reported from the use of bad and poisonous flavors—every one should insist on having a FLAVOR for FOOD that is true to its name.

PURE AND STRONG.

BURNETT'S VANILLA

made from the best quality of Mexican Vanilla.

SOLD BY ALL GROCERS.

JOSEPH BURNETT CO.,

BOSTON, MASS.

PETTIJOHN'S

THE WHOLE OF THE WHEAT

EXTREMELY DELICATE
DELICIOUS AND NOURISHING
UNEQUALED FOR CHILDREN

At all Grocers. Cut of Bear on every Package.

Breakfast Food

FEEDS THE BODY AND THE BRAIN

THE AMERICAN CEREAL CO. CHICAGO

"Just the Nicest!"

LOWNEY'S

Chocolate Bonbons.

"NAME ON EVERY PIECE."

World famous for their delicious quality, perfect purity, and delightful variety.
The despair of imitators and the choice of connoisseurs.

A Trial Package for 10 cents in Stamps.

When not to be had of dealers we will send on receipt of price: 1 lb. box, 60 cents; 2 lb. box, $1.20; 3 lb. box, $1.80; 5 lb. box, $3.00. Delivered free in the United States. Address correspondence to

The Walter M. Lowney Co., 70 Pearl St., Boston.

New York Retail Store, 1123 Broadway (25th St.). Boston Retail Store, 416 Washington St.

OVER **104,000** **FISCHER PIANOS** Offices and Factories: 417-433 West 28th St.

1851. THE PHOENIX MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, 1898. Send your age to Home Office, and we will send you sample policies showing just what we have to offer.

BLACK, RED,—All Colors. The Black Cat and other

NOV. 16. 1898

THE PARKER

GAMES

For Merry Winter Evenings, we especially recommend — out of nearly three hundred games which we publish —

The War in Cuba (for Boys) **$1.25**
Merry Christmas (a fine new game) **$1.50**
The Battle of Manila, 60c. and $1.00
Pillow-Dex (the merriest of fun) **25c. and 50c.**

SOLD BY LEADING DEALERS EVERYWHERE THROUGHOUT THE ENGLISH SPEAKING WORLD.

Our Illustrated List Mailed Free Upon Request. It will materially aid you in making a selection.

Ask your dealer for the PARKER GAMES. All bear our name.

PARKER BROTHERS SALEM MASS. U.S.A.

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EXTREMELY DELICATE
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THE AMERICAN CEREAL CO. CHICAGO

LEADERS IN CORRECT SHAPES

Wilbur's TRADE DOUBLE WEAR MARK

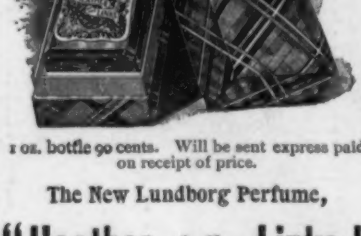
3 OR 4 TALL

30 FIVE FOLD

Highest Possible Grade *Stately*

THE BEST DEALERS CAN SUPPLY YOU. IF THEY WILL NOT, WE WILL.

WILBUR SHIRT & COLLAR CO. TROY, N.Y.



1 oz. bottle 90 cents. Will be sent express paid on receipt of price.

The New Lundborg Perfume,

"Heather of the Links,"

is Up to Date and as Royal as the Ancient Game of Golf.

For Sale by Dealers Generally.

LADD & COFFIN,

Proprietors and Manufacturers of Lundborg's Perfumes,

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OVER **104,000** **FISCHER** Offices and Factories: 417-433 West 28th St.

THE *Sozodont* REVIEW

HALL & RUCKEL, Publishers, 215 Washington Street, New York

Vol. 1 NEW YORK, September 7, 1898 No. 1

The Latest News "From the Front"

A Unique Family Tree

We present in these columns a unique "tree," photographed from life. Brought to us recently as a **Sozodont** souvenir by friends, we instantly recognized it as typical of a number of families among our own acquaintance. This tree is representative of a family of **Sozodont** users — from the grandparents, "sound of tooth and limb," to the "baby" of the family—all of whom display the good effects of the dainty dentifrice. **Sozodont** has numberless friends like these, many of whom first used it forty years ago. The proprietors desire testimonials from families and offer return courtesies.

For particulars, also free samples of **Sozodont** for from one to five different names and addresses, write

SOZODONT
P. O. Box 247, New York City.

Van Buskirk's fragrant **Sozodont**, for the teeth and breath, has been before the public since 1858, and is endorsed by the dental and medical professions as an eminently safe preparation in both the liquid and powder forms, which are sold together in one package for one price at all drug counters.

THE BARTA PRESS, BOSTON.

FASHIONABLE WOMEN and all women who know Sorosis Shoes are paying tribute to their shapely lines, their exquisite finish, their superior construction, and their wonderful ease.

The woman who doesn't wear them is missing the greatest luxury in footwear ever placed within woman's reach. Sorosis Shoes are to-day the accepted standard of the world, and

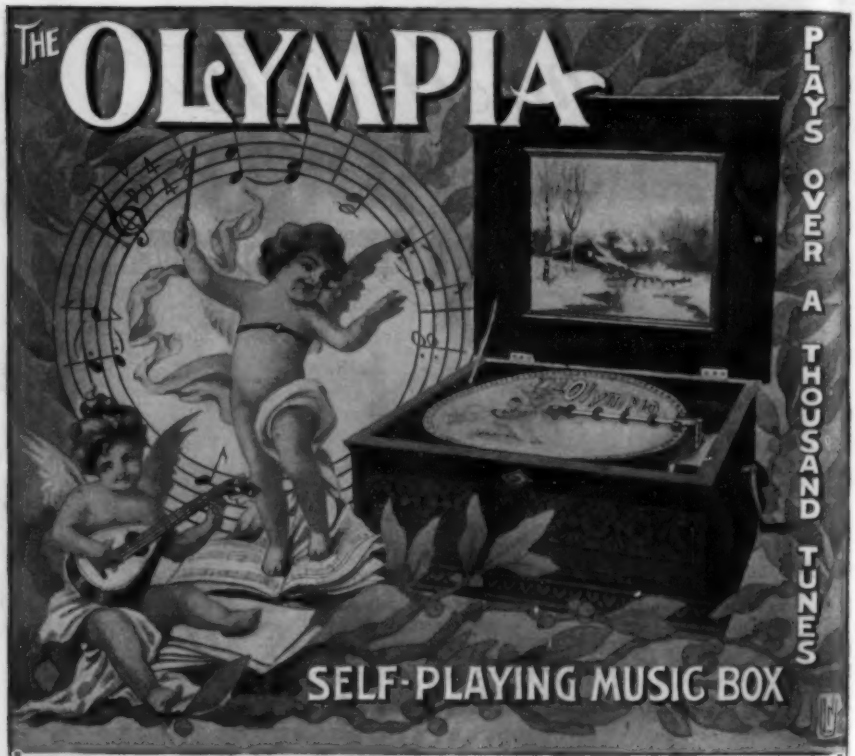
The Masterpiece of the Shoemaker's Art.

Sorosis Shoes support the instep, and prevent flattening of the arch of the foot.

Get them of your dealer if possible; but, if he has only a substitute to offer, we will send, express prepaid in the United States, on receipt of retail price, **$3.50**

CAUTION. — You are not getting Sorosis Shoes unless this Trade-Mark is branded into the soles.

Our finely illustrated Catalogue shows shapes and kinds (27 styles) for all occasions, and gives directions for ordering by mail. Sent **FREE.** A. E. LITTLE & CO., 52 Blake Street, Lynn, Mass.



The Olympia Self-Playing Music Box is the latest and most improved of all the Music Boxes with interchangeable Tune-Disks.

The Piano Cannot Produce the richness attained by the Olympia unless played by six or eight hands, and then the players must be experts—for Olympia disks are as much superior to all others in their correct and expressive rendering as the Olympia Music Box itself is superior to every other make in tone and simplicity of construction.

This Wonderful Richness of Tone you'll realize at once; the durability you'll appreciate years from now, after inferior makes would have been worn out and useless. It doesn't have to be coaxed to play; any child can give the winding crank a few turns—enough for a dozen tunes—30 minutes without re-winding. Disks are easily changed—they're practically indestructible.

Over 500 Tunes are ready now, and the latest music is constantly being added.

Charming Home Entertainments may be arranged without notice if an Olympia is in the parlor—Dancing, singing, instrumental renderings—Hymns and Church Music, too.

The above Illustration

shows Style IV—highly polished mahogany or oak case—22 x 20 x 10 ins. high. 77 teeth in comb. Price, including One Tune-Disk,

$45 Sent on Receipt of Price.

Extra Tunes, 60c. each.

Insist on an Olympia; there is no "Just as Good."

Send for handsome illustrated Catalogue of Music Boxes, at all prices, and list of tunes.

F. G. OTTO & SONS, 44 Sherman Ave., Jersey City, N. J.

Or from Dealers in Musical Instruments, Jewelry, Clocks, Silverware, etc., etc.

Ladies: Send **25c.** for fine pair or **30c.** for extra fine pair of **Wiley's "CAPITOL"** (Trade-Mark Registered) **Lambs Wool Soles** for crocheted slippers. Sent postpaid on receipt of price. State size. Sold at shoe and department stores. **Take no substitute.**

Send **25c.** for pair of **Wiley's Hygienic Wool Lined "ALASKA SOCKS,"** for rubber boots, hospital and house wear. *Only antiseptic sock made.* State size. Sold at all shoe stores.

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MENNEN'S BORATED TALCUM TOILET POWDER

A positive relief for Prickly Heat, Chafing, and Sunburn, and all afflictions of the skin. "A little higher in price than worthless substitutes, but a reason for it." Removes all odor of perspiration. Delightful after shaving. Sold everywhere, or mailed on receipt of 25 cents. Get Mennen's (the original).

Sample free. GERHARD MENNEN CO., Newark, N. J.

Breakfast!

Don't starve yourself in the morning. Don't stuff yourself in the morning. Breakfast should be nourishing and easily digested, for it has to sustain the whole family through the most trying part of the day. Give your tired stomach a chance by breakfasting on Quaker Oats.

THE EASY FOOD

Quaker Oats

THE WORLD'S BREAKFAST

ACCEPT NO SUBSTITUTE

"It's Knitted Table Padding—saves wear and breakage, and is Silence itself."

KNITTED TABLE PADDING,
KNITTED MATTRESSES, AND
KNITTED MATTRESS PADS

are things no good housekeeper will do without after once trying them. They represent the difference between Good housekeeping and Bad housekeeping, — the difference between Comfort, Economy, and Luxury, and Discomfort, Extravagance, and Drudgery. *A most appropriate Holiday Gift.* Sold by first-class dry goods houses. Send for illustrated free booklet to KNITTED MATTRESS CO., Canton Junction, Mass.

Be sure to mention The Black Cat.

National Dramatic Conservatory.

F. F. MACKAY and ELEANOR GEORGEN, Directors. Special instruction for the stage, pulpit, bar and platform. Student performances. Special preparatory classes for teachers. Prospectus mailed on application.

THE NATIONAL DRAMATIC CONSERVATORY, Berkeley Lyceum, 14 West 44th Street, New York.

Angora Cats AND Kittens.

I have a fine stock of these beautiful pets to select from. Any color or age. I can please every one who wants the VERY BEST at reasonable prices. Send stamp for full particulars. S. J. GLIDDEN, Freedom, Maine.

Christmas or Wedding Gift

SOMETHING NEW IN STERLING SILVER.

THE DONALDSON MUSTACHE GUARD

Makes dainty china look daintier.

Can be easily put on or taken off, as it fits any sized drinking cup. A useful and ornamental article for Husband, Brother, or Friend. Gentlemen should not be without one. Price, without monogram, **$1.00**, postpaid.

DONALDSON COMPANY, Sta. A, Detroit, Mich.

Guaranteed Sterling Silver, 925-1000 fine. These figures represent its intrinsic value. Agents wanted.

MELLIN'S FOOD

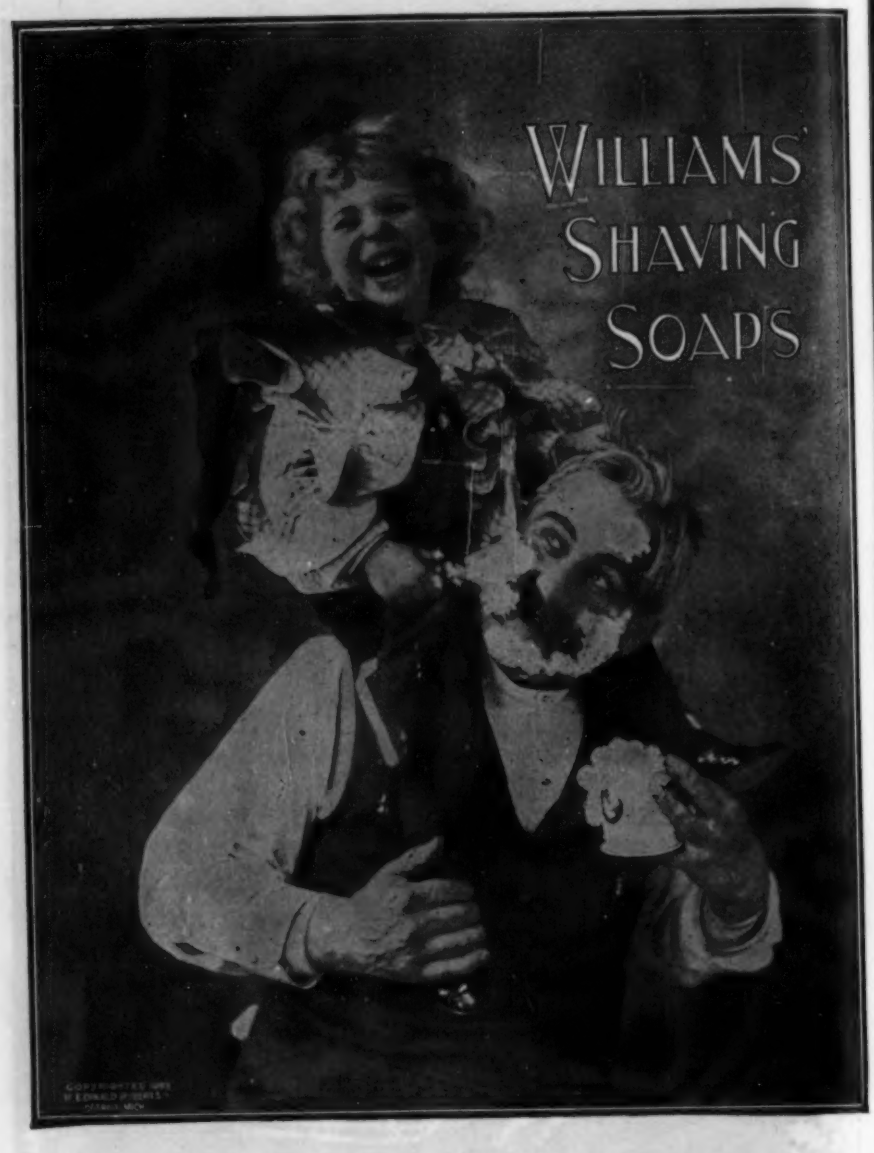
I send you a picture of our Mellin's Food baby taken at 6 months of age.

He is a very sturdy little fellow, and has cut all of his teeth with no trouble beyond a little restlessness with the double ones. In spite of our efforts to hold him back he walked when 11 months old.

Mrs. E. L. McKenzie,
Greene, N. Y.

Mellin's Food contains all of the flesh, bone and muscle-forming elements which are essential to the nourishment and build-up of a baby's body. A free sample of Mellin's Food will be sent upon request.

MELLIN'S FOOD CO., BOSTON, MASS.



"A Merry Christmas!"

PATRIOTIC AMERICANS
WEAR THE
INGERSOLL DOLLAR WATCH

FOR CHRISTMAS

Is the greatest value for the smallest outlay that has ever been offered to the public. It is unrivaled by any product of its kind on the face of the earth. It is like our great Nation, our great Heroes and Statesmen—unapproachable. It is guaranteed by the broadest guarantee ever given a watch, and backed by the greatest watch success in history. Output, "a million a year."

GUARANTEE
R. H. Ingersoll & Bro.
MAKERS
65 CORTLANDT STREET NEW YORK CITY
AGREE THAT IF WITHOUT ABUSE THIS WATCH FAILS TO KEEP GOOD TIME THEY WILL UPON ITS RETURN TO THEM WITHIN ONE YEAR FROM ABOVE DATE REPAIR OR REPLACE IT WITH A NEW ONE.

Mailed post-paid to any address for **$1.00**

Send for Souvenir Booklet "The Man Behind the Gun."

ROBT. H. INGERSOLL & BRO.
67 CORTLANDT ST. N. Y. CITY.
ADDRESS
DEPT. 156

Hall's Vegetable Sicilian . . . Hair Renewer

Brings the old color back; no more faded or gray hair.
Makes growth more rapid; short hair becomes long hair.
Holds the hair firmly in place; the hair stops falling out.
Completely removes dandruff; baldness is prevented.
Feeds the hair bulbs; new hair grows on bald heads.

If your druggist cannot supply you, send one dollar to
R. P. Hall & Co., Nashua, N. H.

Scientists' Views on Cigarettes.

The word "cigarette" was introduced into English in 1842 by L. S. Costello. According to the figures of Prof. H. W. Wiley, chief chemist of the Department of Agriculture, a cigarette is composed of about $\frac{1}{25}$ of an ounce of tobacco wrapped in fine paper weighing $\frac{1}{700}$ of an ounce. The same expert is authority for the statement that the paper is pure and the tobacco wholly unadulterated.

"The tobacco used in the manufacture of cigarettes is much less frequently flavored and otherwise artificially treated than is ordinary chewing or smoking tobacco and that employed in the manufacture of cigars," says Prof. Willis G. Tucker, analyst of the New York State Board of Health, in his Ninth Annual Report.

"Never was a case stronger. The chemical purity of the cigarette is attested by the official chemist of the State Board of Health, and by an official analyst of seventeen years' experience in the Health Department of New York City, together with the chief chemist of the United States and the chemists of colleges and of other cities."— *The Mail and Express* (*N. Y.*).

"The fact that cigarettes do not cause insanity finds confirmation from such experts as the president of New York State Commission in Lunacy, a former State Commissioner in Lunacy, the superintendent of the State Lunatic Asylum, and a qualified examiner in lunacy in the Superior Court of the city of New York, together with a score of other experts all over the United States."

Deputy Coroner Edward J. Donlin, of New York City, says: "I have made thousands of autopsies and I do not recall a case when death could be directly charged to cigarette smoking." — *The Mail and Express* (*N. Y.*).

The superintendent of the Iowa Hospital for the Insane recently reported that after an examination of 28,081 cases of insanity he found only one in which the alleged cause was cigarette smoking. "That the cigarette is a cause of insanity is most positively denied," he adds. It is a curious fact that although "Death from Cigarettes" is a familiar headline in carelessly edited or sensational papers, the mortuary records of the Board of Health published in those same sheets never have been known to bear the words: "Cause — cigarettes."

Mr. Goschen, when Chancellor of the Exchequer in England, attributed the falling off in the use of "heavy wines" after dinner to the "circulation of the cigarette."

"The cigarette has but little strength, it can do you no harm," says Joseph Baker in his quaint little book, "Smoking and Smokers: an Antiquarian, Historical, Veritable, and Narcotical Disquisition." Joseph wrote before science had had a say, but Joseph was right, as recent papers read before the New York Medico-Legal Society prove.

In all the experiments made by chemists to test popular brands of American cigarettes, no trace of any adulterant has ever been found. If this does not demolish the "opium-arsenic" theory of adulterants in cigarettes, then the science of chemistry is valueless as a means of arriving at truth.

"The status of the cigarette is this: It is just tobacco and paper. It does not contain poison. It does not cause insanity. Science proves both these statements." — *The Illustrated American.*

Ladies Going to California

Want comfort en route, which was always a distinction of The California Limited — Santa Fe Route. This year an observation car is added, with a spacious assembly room for ladies and children.

Address General Passenger Office,
The Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Ry.,
CHICAGO.

Make Old Clothing Look Like New.

You can color anything any color with Diamond Dyes. Dresses, jackets, cloaks, wraps, men's suits, feathers, stockings, ribbons, can all be made to look like new with these great money saving dyes. They make absolutely fast colors that are true to name, and give results superior to much of the dyeing done by job dye houses. Direction book and sample card free. Wells, Richardson & Co., Burlington, Vt.

A Trifle Mannish

STYLE 515.

The Ideal Dress Boot

STYLE 511.

Dull Mat Kid Top

STYLE 522.

THE FAMOUS

Queen Quality Shoe

For Women.

The Most Wonderful Value Ever Offered for $3.00.

HIGHEST QUALITY of Material and Workmanship.

Brown Willow Calf

STYLE 524.

IMPORTED DESIGNERS of RARE ABILITY have produced a shoe which is a REVELATION to the wearer.

For stylish effect, retaining its shape, and fitting where others fail, it has no equal.

We are the LARGEST MAKERS of women's fine shoes in the WORLD. This explains how so good a shoe can be made for $3.00.

For your POCKET'S SAKE, and your CONTINUOUS COMFORT'S SAKE, insist on having the GENUINE trade-marked shoe.

If your dealer hasn't them we will send a pair, express prepaid, upon receipt of $3.00.

Queen Quality

On Every Pair.

Send for artistic illustrated catalogue FREE, giving full description and how to order.

FOERDERER'S VICI KID USED EXCLUSIVELY.

MADE IN THIRTY STYLES.

THOS. G. PLANT CO. - - - - - BOSTON, MASS.

28 STYLES, ...FROM $5.00 to $45.00

Sunart Cycle Vici No. 1

HAS EVERY KNOWN IMPROVEMENT . . .

...IT'S COMPACT...

Can be carried in Grip or on Wheel with no inconvenience.

Send 2c. Stamp for Catalogue. **SUNART PHOTO CO.**
91 AQUEDUCT ST., ROCHESTER, N. Y.

Nothing more suitable for a HOLIDAY GIFT than a

RAY Camera.

They have stood the test of time.
15 styles from **$2.50** up.
We guarantee every camera.
Our handsomely illustrated catalogue free.

MUTSCHLER, ROBERTSON & CO.,
165 W. MAIN ST., - ROCHESTER, N. Y.

The Niagara Jr.

IS A PERFECT AND COMPLETE

Camera for 35 cts.

Guaranteed to take out-door and interior pictures 2½ x 2½ inches equal to any higher price camera made. Specially ground lens. Shutter arranged for Snap-Shot and Time Exposures. Uses glass plates.

Sent to any address, prepaid, upon receipt of **35 CENTS** in stamps or coin.

NIAGARA CAMERA CO.,
331-333 Main St. **BUFFALO, N. Y.**

WATCH AND CHAIN FOR ONE DAY'S WORK.

Boys and Girls can get a Nickel-Plated Watch, also a Chain and Charm for selling 1½ doz. Packages of Bluine at 10 cents each. Send your full address by return mail and we will forward the Bluine, post-paid, and a large Premium List. No money required.
BLUINE CO., Box A, Concord Junction, Mass.

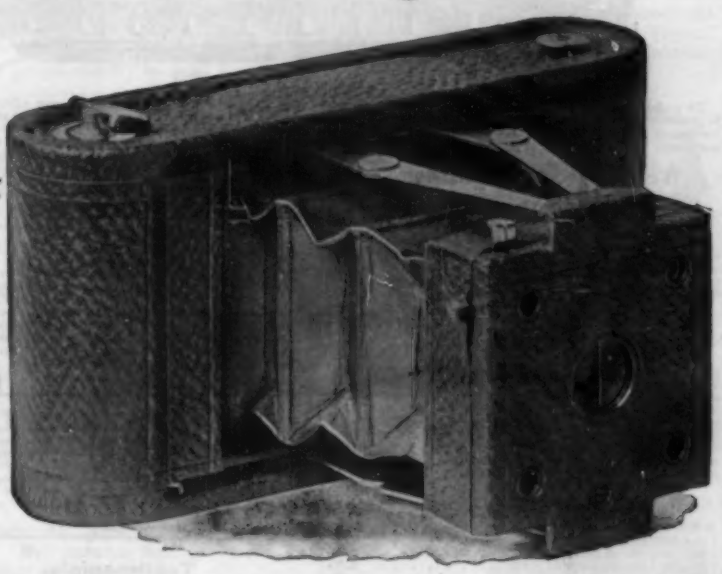
DUMB-BELL BUTTONS, FREE.

We only ask you to pay the postage and get a pair of latest style Dumb-bell Cuff Buttons ABSOLUTELY FREE! Guaranteed value, 25c. Either silver or gold, heaviest plate. Will wear six months. Sent, with 128-page catalogue of 3,000 bargains, **FREE**, if you send 3 two-cent stamps for postage.
R. H. INGERSOLL & BRO., 65 Cortlandt St., Dept. 156, N. Y

WANTED **RELIABLE MEN** in every locality, local or traveling, to introduce a new discovery and keep our show cards tacked up on trees, fences, and bridges throughout town and country; steady employment; commission or salary; **$65.00 PER MONTH AND EXPENSES** not to exceed $2.50 per day; money deposited in any bank at start if desired. Write for particulars.
THE GLOBE MEDICAL ELECTRIC CO.,
Buffalo, N. Y.

There is no Kodak but the Eastman Kodak.

Holidays are Kodak Days



Folding Pocket Kodak $10

Indoors and Out the holiday season is a delightful one for amateur photography, making the Kodak an especially welcome **Christmas Gift.**

The Christmas tree, groups of friends at the dinner table or at the card party are all fascinating subjects for the flash-light and the winter days give ample opportunity for indoor portraiture, while outside, the barren, wind swept fields, or the trees covered with their feathery mantles of white offer unlimited possibilities to the amateur artist.

Flash-light pictures and daylight pictures are easy with a Kodak.

KODAKS $5.00 to $35.00.

EASTMAN KODAK CO.
Rochester, N. Y

Catalogues free at the dealers or by mail.

$15 COUCH FREE

SAFE DELIVERY OF GOODS GUARANTEED.

To quickly introduce our popular plan of selling direct to consumers at strictly wholesale prices and to make customers at once, we give this **Couch Free** to each purchaser of our sample grocery offer.

We Sell You the Groceries.
We Give You the Couch Free.

This is our regular $15 Couch, is 27 x 72 inches, upholstered in the finest imported figured velour or wide wale corduroy in any standard shade or color. Full set of best springs. Spring edge and end. Deep biscuit tufted. Samples of the covering free upon request.

We Want No Money in Advance.

We sell groceries at wholesale prices and we want to place a sample lot in your home. We can save you from 10 to 25 per cent. on all your purchases, and to prove our statement have made up what we call a "sample order," itemized in this ad., which amounts to $15. We want you to try the groceries and convince yourself that our goods and prices are all we claim. We know that you will help advertise us and will buy all your supplies from us after receiving this "sample lot," to be used as a test trial and returned if not all claimed.

Our Sample Order.

50 lbs. best granulated sugar	$2.50
3 lbs. best Golden Rio coffee	.90
3 lbs. best tea, any brand	2.25
2 lbs. best baking powder	1.00
3 lbs. best Carolina rice	.30
1 lb. best corn starch	.10
6 lbs best gloss starch	.50
2 lbs. choice raisins	.25
2 lbs. extra cleaned currants	.20
20 lbs. best laundry soap	1.00
12 boxes parlor matches, 200-box	.30
6 cakes toilet soap, 10c. size	.50
1 lb shredded cocoanut	.40
1 box stove polish	.10
1 box shoe blacking	.10
1 lb. best pepper, ground	.35
1-2 lb. pure cinnamon, ground	.25
1-2 lb. best mustard, ground	.25
1-2 lb. best grade ginger, ground	.25
1-2 lb. best grade Cloves, ground	.35
1-4 lb. large nutmegs	.40
1 pt. triple extract lemon	1.20
1 pt triple extract vanilla	1.20
1 qt. best liquid bluing	.30
1 pt. household ammonia	.15

These groceries amount to $15.00
Couch sells for 15.00
Both would cost $30.00
Our sample order price only $15.00

We are sometimes asked how we can afford to make such an offer as this. We will tell you the secret. The goods are sold direct from manufacturer to consumer, saving the two or three profits you have to pay when goods are bought at usual retail prices. Our contracts for goods were placed months ago, when prices were lowest ever known, and are among the largest ever placed for supplies in this country. We get special prices and our plan gives our patrons all the advantages of these prices.

How to Order.

Simply say you are a reader of this paper and accept our Sample Offer No 32 and give full directions; also state color of upholstering, first and second choice. Orders should be signed by the head of the family. Price includes packing and drayage for goods on board cars in Chicago. When the goods arrive at depot examine them and if found to be all we claim remit us the sample price for groceries alone, $15. Otherwise refuse them and notify us that they are subject to our order.

To Our Friends *who prefer to remit in advance (we don't ask it) we give the lady of the house 1 doz. Turkish Bath Towels, 14x27 in., fringed and bordered. This about pays us for bookkeeping and other clerical work and should go to the customers as a saving to them. The towels are an extra premium for cash in advance and will not be given with C. O. D. orders. Money refunded if goods are not as represented.*

Testimonials.

Gentlemen: The sample order of groceries came in due time. I do not see how it is that you give so much and of such good quality for $15 and then such a beautiful couch for a present. Those who have not seen the goods and couch say it is almost impossible, but I know it is so, for I have received the goods and couch. H. E. BABCOCK.
Garner, Iowa, March 3, 1898.

Gentlemen: Groceries and couch received. Everything just as advertised. No packages broken and everything full weight. EUGENE WYKOFF.
New Carlisle, Ind.

Gentlemen: Groceries and couch arrived safely. Am highly pleased with them. Will say that you have performed what you advertised.
Bainbridge, N. Y. MRS. E. H. WARREN.

NOTE.—We have hundreds of other testimonials of a similar nature, but lack of space prevents our publishing them in this article.

Consolidated Wholesale Supply Co.,
215-219 S. Clinton Street, Chicago.

REMEMBER, YOU GET THE COUCH FREE.

This concern is responsible.—EDITOR.

"We are such stuff as dreams are made on." — *Shakespeare. "Tempest," act iv., sc. I.*

Sold by mail, only $15.

Size 4 ft. 6 in. by 6 ft. 3 in.

Made in two parts, 50 cents extra.

Ostermoor Patent Elastic Felt Mattress.

We **KNOW** that we make the best mattress in the world, but it is hard for us to convince **YOU**, individually, of it without a trial. Perhaps you don't need a mattress now. Don't let that keep you from sending for our **Free** book, "The Test of Time." It costs us 25 cents to answer every inquiry, but we will get rich if we can interest enough people merely to send for our book; write to-day.

GUARANTEE: Sleep on it for a month, and if it isn't all you hoped for in the way of a mattress, if you don't believe it to be the equal in cleanliness, durability, and comfort of any $50 hair mattress ever made, you can get your money back by return mail—"no questions asked."

Express charges paid to anywhere—and back.

Our goods are not for sale at stores anywhere. Our name and guarantee on every genuine mattress. We make all sizes at corresponding prices.

TRADE-MARK

OSTERMOOR & CO., 129 Elizabeth Street, New York City.

We have cushioned 25,000 churches. Send for our book, "Church Cushions."

This chair is covered with

PANTASOTE

A Wonderful Material!

Waterproof, grease proof, stain proof, and germ proof. Will outwear leather; looks exactly like it and costs half as much.

Tested for six years by leading railways of Europe and America, and by steamship companies, yacht and coach builders, furniture makers and upholsterers, and proved to be superior to any material for durability. Adopted by the U. S. War Department for its ambulances

Pantasote does not rot, crackle, or peel, is not affected by heat, cold, or moisture, is not inflammable, and is made in plain leather grains or embossed. All standard colors.

Enough to cover a dining chair seat or footstool sent for 25c. in stamps.

Sample free. 6 x 15 ins. sent for 2c. stamp and your furniture dealer's or upholsterer's name.

THE PANTASOTE COMPANY,

29 Broadway (Dept. K), N. Y. City.

LOST 40 lbs. OF FAT.

Are you too stout?

If so, why not reduce your weight and be comfortable? Obesity is a disease and predisposes to Heart Trouble, Paralysis, Liver Disease, Rheumatism, Apoplexy, etc., and is not only dangerous, but extremely annoying to people of refin d taste. We do not care how many reduction remedies you may hav taken without success, we have a simple treatment that will reduce weight, as thousands can testify. The following are a few of the thousands who have been reduced in weight and greatly improved in health by its use.

Reduced

Mr. W. A Pollock, Hartington, Neb. **50** lbs.
Mrs. M. M. Cummins, Ottawa, Ill. . . **78** "
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MRS. HELEN WEBER, of Marietta, O., says: "*It reduced my weight 40 lbs. without sickness or any inconvenience whatever.*"

We are going to give away barrels and

Barrels of Sample Boxes Free

just to prove how effective, pleasant, and safe this remedy is to reduce weight. If you want one, send us your name and address at once. IT COSTS YOU NOTHING TO TRY IT Each box is sent in a plain sealed package with no advertising on it to indicate what it contains. Correspondence strictly confidential.

Hall Chemical Co., K. A. Box, St. Louis, Mo.

FREE! A beautiful **Solid Gold** Shell **RING** with a simulating *Birthday Stone*, mounted in Belcher setting, also an exquisite Tiffany style **Opal Stick Pin.**

You Pay Nothing. SIMPLY SEND YOUR NAME and ADDRESS ON A POST CARD and we will send you 12 packages of Imperishable Violet Sachet Perfume to sell for us, if you can, at 10 cents each. When sold send us our money, and we will send you **FREE** both prizes. (To each month is dedicated a precious stone. Anyone wearing the stone of their birth-month insures them great and unfailing good luck.) These Birthday Rings surpass in beauty any **FREE** premium ever offered. Send address on Post Card. No money required. Perfume returnable if not sold. Mention this paper. **National Supply Co.** *46, 48, 50 West Larned St.,* DETROIT, MICH.

CATARRH CAN BE CURED.

Catarrh is a kindred ailment of consumption, long considered incurable; and yet there is one remedy that will positively cure catarrh in any of its stages. For many years this remedy was used by the late Dr. Stevens, a widely noted authority on all diseases of the throat and lungs. Having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, and desiring to relieve human suffering, I will send, free of charge, to all sufferers from Catarrh, Asthma, Consumption, and nervous diseases, this recipe, in German, French, or English, with full directions for preparing and using. Sent by mail by addressing, with stamp, naming this paper, W. A. Noyes, 920 Powers Block, Rochester, N. Y.

Wonderful Invention

Tones Every Organ and Nerve in the System

Price, $5.00.

Every home should have our New Improved Thermal Vapor Bath Cabinet (recently patented). It opens the several million pores all over the body, and sweats out of the system all impure and poisonous matter which causes disease. Gives absolute cleanliness and without medicine, keeps the body healthy and vigorous. Will cure a hard cold and break up all symptoms of typhoid and other fevers with one bath. Reduces surplus flesh; cures rheumatism and all blood, skin, nerve, kidney diseases. You will have all the invigorating, cleansing, and purifying effects of the most luxurious Turkish, hot-air, or medicated bath at a trifling cost. Price, $5.00.

The Rev. J. W. Bailey, D. D., Topeka, Kans., recommends this Thermal Bath Cabinet highly for nervous diseases. S. R. May, Haven, Kans., suffered fifteen years with rheumatism. After using our Bath Cabinet a short time he was entirely cured. Dr. Wm. F. Holcombe, one of New York's oldest and best known specialists, recommends this Cabinet for Bright's disease and all kidney troubles, and also says it is the greatest cure known for pneumonia.

Ladies should have our Complexion Steamer used in conjunction with the Cabinet, in which the face is given the same vapor treatment as the body. The only harmless and sure method of drawing away all impurities, leaving the skin clear and soft as velvet. It is the only cure for pimples, blotches, and other disfiguring sores and blemishes. Invaluable for the successful treatment of Catarrh and Asthma. Price, $1.50 extra.

FREE Descriptive Book and Testimonials to all who write. Special Inducements to Agents.

MOLLENKOPP & McCREERY, 124 Summit St. Toledo, O.

Free!

Our Golden Watch has the appearance of one worth $40.00. The Watch is accompanied by a 20 YEAR GUARANTEE. The cases are beautifully made by the most skilled workmen. The movement is AN AMERICAN STYLE, full plate, expansion balance, quick train, and you can rely upon it that when you own one of these truly handsome watches, you will at all times have the correct time in your possession. Do you want a watch of this character? If so, now is your opportunity to secure one. To introduce our Photograph Outfits we will send you this Watch Free if you will take advantage of our marvellous offer. If you want one, write to us without delay. With your letter send us 12c. in stamps, or 10c. silver for which we will send you a Photograph Outfit and our offer. You can produce a picture with a few pofs of smoke. After you receive the beautiful Watch we shall expect you to show it to your friends and call their attention to this advertisement. This Watch is sent Free, by Registered Post, on your complying with our advertisement, and the marvellous offer which we will send, and it is fully warranted. Money returned if not more than satisfied. SEND US 10 CENTS, silver, or 12 one-cent stamps. We will mail you at once our WATCH OFFER and Photograph Outfit. You will then know all about our watches and also appreciate our Photo Outfit. Address, plainly, at once to

STAR PHOTO. CO., 19 Warren Street, New York.

SEND 50 CENTS Cut this ad. out, send to us and we will send you this GUITAR by express, C.O.D., subject to examination. Examine it at your express office, and if found exactly as represented and the most wonderful bargain you ever saw or heard of, pay the express agent Our Special Offer Price, $2.95, less the 50 cts., or $2.45 and express charges. THIS IS A REGULAR $5.00 GENUINE TROUBADOUR MAHOGANY FINISH GUITAR, highly polished, beautiful inlaying around sound-hole, American patent head, best nickel-plated tail-piece, powerful and sweet toned, extra set of genuine Gleodon strings and a Guckert book of chords which teaches anyone how to play. Write for free musical instrument and organ and piano catalogue. We sell Violins at $1.75 and up. Mandolins $2.95 and up. Banjos $1.24 and up. Organs $22.00 and up. Pianos $125.00 and up. Everything at lowest wholesale prices, and all subject to examination before paying. Address,

SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.), Chicago, Ill.

(Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable—Editor)

Don't Shed Hairpins

but buy "**HOLDFAST**" Aluminum Hairpins. The only hairpins that stay where you put them, and will neither fall out, warp, split, break, nor rust. It is the shape of the top that makes them **hold fast.**

THIS IS A "HOLDFAST" HAIRPIN.

Be sure that the hairpin you buy looks like this. Dealers may offer you cheap imitations on which they make more profit. Do not be deceived, but insist on getting the genuine **HOLDFAST.**

Size, 2¾ inches; polished or with black tops. Also 3¼ and 4½ inches, with heavy prongs for braid or bonnet use.

If your dealer will not supply you, send 10 cents in stamps for sample of six small or one large. Mention whether your hair is heavy or light.

Made in white, black, brown, and auburn.

CONSOLIDATED SAFETY PIN CO.
BOX K, BLOOMFIELD, N. J.

SPECIAL $2.75

EXAMINATION FREE. Cut this ad out and send to us; SEND NO MONEY. State your HEIGHT and WEIGHT, number of inches around body at Bust and Neck, whether Black or Blue is wanted, and we will send you this cape by express C. O. D., subject to examination. You can examine and try it on at your nearest express office, and if found exactly as represented, and the best value you ever saw or heard of, and far cheaper than any other house can offer, pay the express agent our special price, **$2.75** and express charges.

THIS CAPE is the very latest style for Fall and Winter, made of Black or Blue all-wool genuine Clayton Beaver Cloth, 28 inches long, very full sweep, 12-inch upper cape and large storm collar, beautifully edged with fine Black Baltic Seal, trimmed with one row wide and three rows narrow Mohair braid. This garment is fine tailor-made throughout and equal to capes that sell at more than double our price. Write for our free Cloak Catalogue of everything in women's and children's wear. Address, SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.)
Fulton, Desplaines and Wayman Sts., CHICAGO, ILL.

CURED TO STAY CURED
ASTHMA
Dr. HAYES, Buffalo, N. Y.

The Best Home Game

Adapted for either Children or Adults

PRICES: Paper Bound, $1 each; Cloth Bound, $2 each. Mailed, postpaid, on receipt of price

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The Royal Game of India

No household complete
No home happy without it

No Parlor Table Game has ever been published which has had so great a sale. For twenty years the best families have had it in their homes, and so enjoyed it that now it is always called for when the question arises, "What shall we play?"

The best game ever published. Sold by leading Book, Stationery, Toy, and Department Stores in the United States, or mailed, postpaid, by

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PRIZE PROBLEM
$500.00
IN SOUVENIR PRIZES

PRIZES SENT SAME DAY ANSWER IS RECEIVED

And Other Prizes Later if YOU Want Them

This is Dewey, the hero of Manila. That is plain. But hovering around him are four of his admirers. They are not so plain. Can you find them? If you can, mark each face with an X and return to us with 25 cents silver or 26 cents in stamps for a trial subscription to the CHICAGO HOUSEHOLD GUEST, a 20-page family monthly, and you will receive a magnificent Dewey souvenir spoon as a prize. This magnificent spoon contains a medallion of the great hero, Admiral Dewey: also in the bowl is shown the magnificent flagship, Olympia, in relief, together with ornamentation, both beautiful and patriotic. This spoon is full size, and, notwithstanding the great cost of design, is also completely plated with gold, both bowl and handle. In addition to this we will allow you to enter our subscribers' contest, without further cost. You will get full particulars of its requirements with your prize for answering the puzzle, and have a fair, equal and even chance, by meritorious effort and no further expenditure of money, to win a grand prize. Among them are

$100 Cash, Bicycle, $25 Cash, Gold Watch, Sewing Machine, Silk Dresses, Silver Tea Sets.

and many others too numerous to mention. We wish to lead, and hence offer these valuable prizes to increase our subscription list. Remember that if you solve the Dewey Puzzle you will be sure of one prize, as promised, and you will not be required to expend another penny to compete in the contest for the large prizes, the full particulars of which will be sent you free. In our subscription contest which closed June 30, Mrs. A. Packard, 517 N. 10th St., Saginaw, E. S., Mich., got $100; Mrs. Wm. Fenton, La Junta, Colo., got a Bicycle; J. E. Joncas, 71 Main St., Hartford, Conn., got Gold Watch; Miss Hattie Huguinn, Medford, Wis., got $12.50; Miss Bertha L. Sexaur, 1212 Scranton Ave., Cleveland, Ohio, got $12.50; P. Bray, Augusta, Ga., got Sewing Machine; 5 got Silk Dresses, 5 got Silver Tea Sets, 10 got Diamond Rings, 10 got Silver Water Pitchers, 22 got Silver Tea Pots, 30 got Silver Bonbon and set Spoons, 29 got Gold Rings, 30 got Silver Sugar Shell and Butter Knife, 40 got Silver Bonbon, 110 got Silver Orange Spoons—in fact, every one got a prize. The best, brightest and most zealous got the large prizes. Will you be one to try and **win the $100?** If so, answer to-day and be among the first to enter. The regular price of the paper is 50 cents, but if you answer our Dewey puzzle we will send it to you for half price, and if your answer be correct, **you are sure of a prize by return mail.** If you are not satisfied money will be promptly returned. If you are now a subscriber your time will be extended. When contest closes names of winners of principal prizes will appear in the HOUSEHOLD GUEST. When answering be sure and say whether you are a subscriber now or not. Answer to-day. *Contest closes December* 31, 1898. Address

HOUSEHOLD GUEST CO., DEPT. 37, CHICAGO, ILL.

OLD COINS WANTED. Coins and stamps before 1878 are valuable. Send 10 cts. for list of prices paid. National Supply Co., Peckville, Pa.

STAMPS. 50 diff. genuine Cuba, Pto. Rico Philippine Isl., Mexico, Egypt, etc., with small album, **only 5c.** Approval sheets at 50 per cent. Agents wanted. New 80-page Price List **Free!** *Established 1865.* STANDARD STAMP CO., St. Louis, Mo.

Vapo-Cresolene

FOR

Whooping Cough, Croup, Colds, Coughs, Asthma, Catarrh.

Items from physicians' statements in our Descriptive Booklet. Send for it.

"Have found it of such great value in Whooping Cough, Croup and other spasmodic coughs, that I have instructed every family under my direction to secure one." "It is of great value in Diphtheria." "It gives relief in Asthma. The apparatus is simple and inexpensive." Sold by all druggists.

VAPO-CRESOLENE CO., 69 Wall St., New York.
Schieffelin & Co., New York, U.S. Agents.

THE GREAT AMERICAN TEA COMPANY

TEA SET FREE,

Toilet Set, Watch, Lamp, Clock, and many other Household Articles

with $5.00, $7.00 and $10.00 orders of our celebrated Teas, Coffees, Baking Powder, Spices and Extracts. Great inducements. Something entirely new. Price List Free.

THE GREAT AMERICAN TEA CO.,
31 and 33 Vesey St., N. Y., P. O. Box 289.

Happy Hint!

"Give your friends The Black Cat as a Christmas present, 50 cents a year, postage paid."

50 CENTS.

Cut this ad. out and send to us and we will send you this Violin and Outfit by express, C. O. D., subject to examination. Examine it at your express office and if found exactly as represented and the most wonderful bargain you ever saw or heard of, pay the express agent our special offer price, $3.35, less the 50 cents, or $2.75, and express charges. This is a regular $5.00 Stradivarius Model Violin, richly colored, highly polished, powerful and sweet in tone, complete with fine maple bow, one extra set of strings, violin case, rosin and one of the best instruction books published. Write for free musical instrument and organ and piano catalogue.

Address, SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., CHICAGO, ILL.
(Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

A Sense of Pleasure

comes to the mouth that's made sweet and wholesome by the use of delicious

Arnica Tooth Soap

Preserves and whitens the teeth, strengthens the gums, sweetens the breath. Is antiseptic, cooling, refreshing. The standard dentifrice for 50 years.
25c at all druggists, or by mail.
C. H. STRONG & CO., CHICAGO, U. S. A.

Free Sample upon application to

J. A. POZZONI PHARMACAL CO.,
ST. LOUIS, MO

HAIR ON THE FACE, NECK, ARMS OR ANY PART OF THE PERSON

QUICKLY DISSOLVED AND REMOVED WITH THE NEW SOLUTION

MODENE

AND THE GROWTH FOREVER DESTROYED WITHOUT THE SLIGHTEST INJURY OR DISCOLORATION OF THE MOST DELICATE SKIN.

Discovered by Accident.—In Compounding, an incomplete mixture was accidentally spilled on the back of the hand, and on washing afterward it was discovered that the hair was completely removed. We purchased the new discovery and named it MODENE. It is perfectly pure, free from all injurious substances, and so simple any one can use it. It acts mildly but surely, and you will be surprised and delighted with the results. Apply for a few minutes and the hair disappears as if by magic. It has no resemblance whatever to any other preparation ever used for a like purpose, and no scientific discovery ever attained such wonderful results. **IT CAN NOT FAIL.** If the growth be light, one application will remove it permanently; the heavy growth such as the beard or hair on moles may require two or more applications before all the roots are destroyed, although all hair will be removed at each application, and without slightest injury or unpleasant feeling when applied or ever afterward. MODENE SUPERCEDES ELECTROLYSIS.

Recommended by all who have tested its merits—Used by people of refinement.

Gentlemen who do not appreciate nature's gift of a beard, will find a priceless boon in Modene which does away with shaving. It dissolves and destroys the life principle of the hair, thereby rendering its future growth an utter impossibility, and is guaranteed to be as harmless as water to the skin. Young persons who find an embarrassing growth of hair coming, should use Modene to destroy its growth. Modene sent by mail, in safety mailing cases, postage paid, (securely sealed from observation) on receipt of price, **$1.00** per bottle. Send money by letter, with your full address written plainly. ☞ Correspondence sacredly private. Postage stamps received the same as cash. (ALWAYS MENTION YOUR COUNTY AND THIS PAPER.) Cut this advertisement out.

LOCAL AND GENERAL AGENTS WANTED.

MODENE MANUFACTURING CO., DEPT. 2, CINCINNATI, O.
Manufacturers of the Highest Grade Hair Preparations.
You can register your letter at any Post-office to insure its safe delivery.

We Offer $1,000 FOR FAILURE OR THE SLIGHTEST INJURY. ☞ **EVERY BOTTLE GUARANTEED**

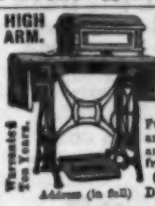
LADIES TRAVELING ALONE.

Very few ladies like to travel alone, especially if accompanied by children; most of them consider railway journeys at all times irksome; but not when they travel via the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railway.

This road is equipped with all the latest improvements possible, making travel pleasant instead of disagreeable. Courteous attendants, comfortable seats, high speed—these are among the chief points to which the Lake Shore can point with pride.

Be sure you buy your ticket over this road.

HIGH ARM.



Warranted Ten Years.

USE IT FREE

30 days in your own home before paying one cent in advance; shipped anywhere, to anyone, for 30 days' test trial. We risk you.

$60 White Star Machine,	$22.00
$50 Pearl Machine	18.00
Standard Singers,	$9, $12.50, 16.00

Full set of attachments free; buy from factory and save $10 to $40; **WE PAY FREIGHT**; thousands in use; catalog, showing 20 other styles, free. Each machine guaranteed 10 years.

Address (in full) **Consolidated Wholesale Supply Co.** Dept. 109 215 S. Clinton St., Chicago, Ill.

EXTRA PAY can be earned evenings by giving **Stereopticon exhibitions.** Little capital needed. Full particulars and 256 page *Magic Lantern* catalog free. **McALLISTER,** Mfg. Optician, 49 Nassau St., N. Y.

LEARN A PROFESSION in 10 days that will net you $25 a day the rest of your life. Ladies or gentlemen. Address, with stamp, **Prof. S. A. WELTMER, Nevada, Mo.**

$1,000 IN GOLD FOR STORIES

FOR PUBLICATION IN

The Gentlewoman,

America's Greatest and Best Journal for Women.

12 PRIZES FOR STORY WRITERS.

Three hundred dollars for a story from 1,800 to 10,000 words. **THE GENTLEWOMAN** stands ready to give that amount. Better still, it will be glad to pay good prices for eleven more. The prizes are:

FIRST, $300.
SECOND, $150.
THIRD, $100.
FOURTH TO TWELFTH, $50 each.

MAKING $1,000 IN ALL.

WE WANT FASCINATING STORIES CLEVERLY TOLD.

Writers may choose their own themes; but love stories, detective stories, ghost stories, stories of adventure and mystery are preferred. No poems desired. Each story must be original and so full of incident and action as to interest intelligent people everywhere. Clean, clever, wholesome stories, that are free from padding, foreign phrases, and attempted fine writing are what we want.

CONDITIONS.—All MSS. must bear a pen name, together with number of words, which may range from 1,800 to 10,000. In a separate sealed envelope accompanying each MS., marked on the outside with the pen name of the writer, must be the author's full name and address. As all stories will positively be judged on their merits, the writer's name or reputation will carry no weight whatever. Postage must be fully prepaid and accompanied by addressed and stamped envelope for their return. All letters relating to same must be enclosed with MS. and *not under separate cover.* All MSS. will be received and returned only at the writer's risk. With every MS. intended for this special prize competition must be enclosed **in the same envelope $1.00 to pay for one year's subscription to THE GENTLEWOMAN.** Write the name and address of the subscriber on a separate slip of paper, so that same can be turned over to our subscription department. This slip will positively not be seen by those who read and judge the stories, nor will they know the real name of the contributor until after awards are made. All envelopes containing MSS. and subscription must be plainly marked **"Prize Stories."** Their receipt will be promptly acknowledged. Competitors may send as many stories as they please, provided the above conditions are complied with in each case. The competition will close January 30, 1899, after which prizes will be paid in gold, and also announced in **THE GENTLEWOMAN.**

MSS. that fail to be included in the prize awards and are deemed worthy of publication in **THE GENTLEWOMAN** will be paid for at our regular rates; balance will be returned. The conditions and requirements being here fully set forth, neither the publishers nor editor can enter into correspondence relative thereto. All MSS. must be addressed

GENTLEWOMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY,
"Prize Story," German Herold Building, New York.

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CURES AILMENTS PECULIAR TO WOMEN

COSTS YOU NOTHING TO TRY IT.

WORN WITH OR WITHOUT CORSET.

Endorsed by Every Physician Who Has Used it.

BE COMFORTABLE
BE HEALTHY AND STRONG
BE MORE ATTRACTIVE
WORK AND WALK WITH EASE

All this is within your reach. Our Brace will do the work. Let us tell you how in our illustrated book mailed free in plain sealed envelope, with letters from delighted customers. Write for it to-day.

The following letter is one of many thousands:

Curtis, Miss., Sept. 1, 1898. "The Brace I purchased of you two years ago did all that you claimed for it. It cured me of the worst forms of female weakness—ovarian troubles, headache, bearing down pains, constipation, inflammation, and other things of 20 years' standing. I can never say enough in praise of the dear old Brace, since it has cured me after spending hundreds of dollars for medicine and doctors' bills.
Mrs. Susie Woodard."

MONEY REFUNDED IF BRACE IS NOT SATISFACTORY.

Address THE NATURAL BODY BRACE CO., BOX 50, Salina, Kansas.

Every woman anticipating motherhood should have this Brace.

SIMPLE IN CONSTRUCTION — COMFORTABLE — ADJUSTABLE TO ANY FIGURE.

WOMAN'S DUTY

is to aid in the cure of **INTEMPERANCE**

Our purely vegetable remedy will positively destroy all taste for alcoholic beverages. It is guaranteed harmless. It acts as a tonic on the nervous system. We invite closest investigation. Write for booklet containing references, genuine testimonials and other valuable information. Remedy comes in soluble tablet form. Can be given secretly, in tea, coffee, soup, etc. Price $1.00 per bottle.

RENOVA MEDICAL CO., Dept. 30, 66 B'way, New York.

MORPHINE!

EASY, PAINLESS, PERMANENT HOME CURE.

We will send any one addicted to MORPHINE, OPIUM, LAUDANUM, or other DRUG HABIT, a trial treatment, FREE OF CHARGE, of the most remarkable remedy for this purpose ever discovered. Containing the GREAT VITAL PRINCIPLE lacking in all other remedies. Confidential correspondence invited from all, especially PHYSICIANS.

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CANCER CURED

Cancer and Tumor Cured without the aid of knife or plaster, and without pain.

A treatise, testimonials and letter of advice free. Address,

Vegetable Cancer Cure Co.,

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The finest sanitarium in America.

PLAYS Dialogues, Speakers for School, Club and Parlor. Catalogue free. **T. S. DENISON, Publisher, Chicago, Ill.**

"Mizpah" Valve Nipples

WILL NOT COLLAPSE

and therefore prevent much colic. The valve prevents a vacuum being formed to collapse them. The ribs inside prevent collapsing when the child bites them. The rim is such that they cannot be pulled off the bottle. **Sample free by mail.**

WALTER F. WARE, 513 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

$1.95 BUYS A $3.50 SUIT

5,000 CELEBRATED "KANTWEAROUT" double seat and double knee. Regular $3.50 Boys' 2-Piece Knee-Pant Suits going at **$1.95.**

A NEW SUIT FREE for any of these suits which don't give satisfactory wear.

Send No Money. Cut this Ad. out and send to us, state age of boy and say whether large or small for age, and we will send you the suit by express, C.O.D., subject to examination. You can examine it at your express office and if found perfectly satisfactory and equal to suits sold in your town for $3.50, pay your express agent our special offer price, $1.95 and express charges.

THESE KNEE-PANT SUITS are for boys from 4 to 15 years of age, and are retailed everywhere at $3.50. Made with double seat and knees, latest 1899 style as illustrated, made from a special wear-resisting, heavy-weight, ALL-WOOL Oakwell cassimere, neat, handsome pattern, fine serge lining, Clayton patent interlining, padding, staying and reinforcing, silk and linen sewing, fine tailor-made throughout, a suit any boy or parent would be proud of. FOR FREE CLOTH SAMPLES of Boys' Clothing (suits, overcoats or ulsters), for boys 4 TO 19 YEARS, write for Sample Book No. 90C, contains fashion plates, tape measure and full instructions how to order.

Men's Suits and Overcoats made to order from $4.00 up. Samples sent free on application. Address,

SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.), Chicago, Ill.

(Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

I WILL TELL YOU cured of Dyspepsia and Indigestion. **FREE** HOW I WAS It won't cost one cent to find out. Harry D. Paget, 111 5th Ave. N.Y.

"TRIX"

TRIX CO., ROCHESTER N.Y.

OUR 1899 MACKINTOSH

$2.95

SEND NO MONEY, cut this ad. out and send to us, state your height and weight, bust measure, length of garment from collar down back to waist line, and waist line to bottom of skirt; state color wanted and we will send you this mackintosh by express C. O. D., subject to examination; examine and try it on at your nearest express office and if found exactly as represented and by far the greatest value you ever saw or heard of, pay your express agent OUR SPECIAL OFFER PRICE, $2.95, and express charges.

THIS MACKINTOSH is made of BLACK or BLUE genuine BAILEY double texture, waterproof SERGE CLOTH, with fancy plaid lining, velvet collar, double detachable cape, extra full sweep cape and skirt, guaranteed latest style and finest tailor-made.

FOR FREE CLOTH SAMPLES of everything in ladies' mackintoshes, write for free Sample Book No. 85 C. ADDRESS,

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EARN A COUCH

By selling 60 lbs. Baker's Teas, Etc., or 65 lbs. for Roll Top Desk or Piano Lamp; 25 lbs. Silver Watch; 50 lbs. Gold Watch or Dinner Set; 15 lbs. Toilet Set; 75 lbs. up Bicycles. *Express prepaid. Catalogue free.*

W. G. BAKER (Dept. 8), Springfield, Mass.

YOU CAN MAKE BIG MONEY

EXHIBITING OUR WONDERFUL GEM GRAPHOPHONE TALKING MACHINE in public halls, school houses and churches. It talks, it sings, it laughs, it plays music, it imitates perfectly the brass band, the orchestra, the piano, the human voice, in fact anything. A wonder as a money maker and as a home entertainer. All the latest music, either vocal or instrumental, speeches of prominent men, etc. COMPLETE OUTFIT consisting of Talking Machine with automatic spring motor, 12 musical or talking records, large illustrated advertising posters (12x18 inches), admission tickets and instruction book with advice about making engagements, securing the use of halls, etc., FOR $15.25. SO SIMPLE that a child can operate it and nothing to get out of order. Will last a lifetime. Cut this ad. out and send for catalogue of Graphophones, Records, etc., with copies of hundreds of testimonials from people who are making hundreds of dollars with our exhibition outfits. ADDRESS,

SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., (Inc.) Chicago, Ill.

Best Christmas Gift. | A year's subscription to The Black Cat, 50 cts., postage paid.

SEND 50 CENTS

Cut this ad. out and send to us, and we will send you this MANDOLIN by express, C. O. D., subject to examination. Examine it at your express office and if found exactly as represented and the most wonderful bargain you ever saw or heard of, pay the express agent OUR SPECIAL OFFER PRICE, $4.65 less the 50 cents, or $4.15 and express charges. THIS IS A REGULAR $10.00 GENUINE COLLEGIAN Solid Mahogany Mandolin, has 13 mahogany ribs, handsome strip between each rib, celluloid edges, rosewood finger-board, inlaid position dots, mahoganized neck, American patent head, beautiful inlays around sound-hole, latest patent nickel plated sleeve protecting tail piece, extra set genuine Gleadon Strings, and Gorkert's book of chords which teaches anyone how to play. Write for free musical instrument, organ and piano catalogue. Address, SEARS, ROEBUCK & Co. Inc. Chicago.

(Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

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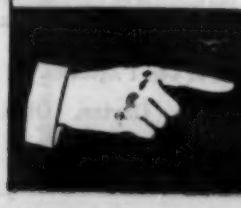
Such a story, told in English which is always at high-water mark, is "The Tax on Moustaches," which will appear in the January number of The Black Cat.

The sum paid by the publishers of The Black Cat for "The Tax on Moustaches" represents, no doubt, the highest rate ever paid for a short story. While more than $1,500 has been paid for a single story that filled a volume or ran through many instalments, in no other instance, we believe, was 33 cents per word paid for a story judged solely upon its merits.

The Black Cat differs from all other publications in that it pays nothing for the name or reputation of a writer, but pays the highest price on record for Stories that are Stories; that it pays NOT according to Length but according to Strength; that it publishes No Serial Stories, No Translations, No Borrowings, and No Stealings.

It is gratifying to note in this connection that the author of "The Tax on Moustaches," although at present a resident of London, is an American by birth—a native of California.

Those who fail to read this Prize Story will miss a literary treat, such as is rarely placed within easy reach of all.



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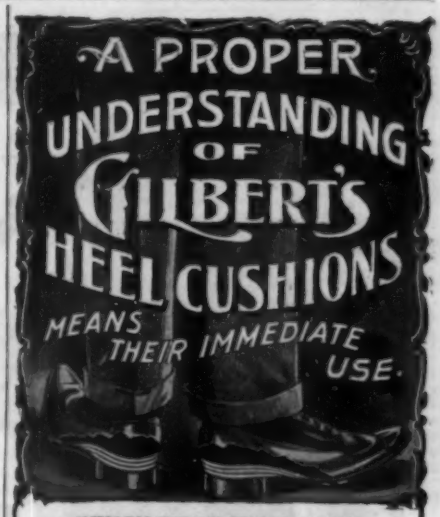

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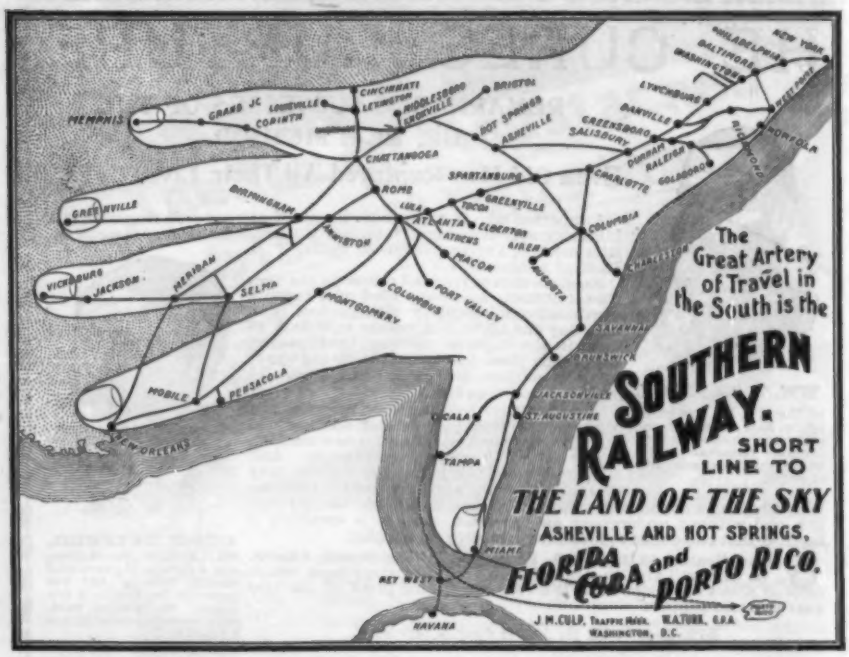
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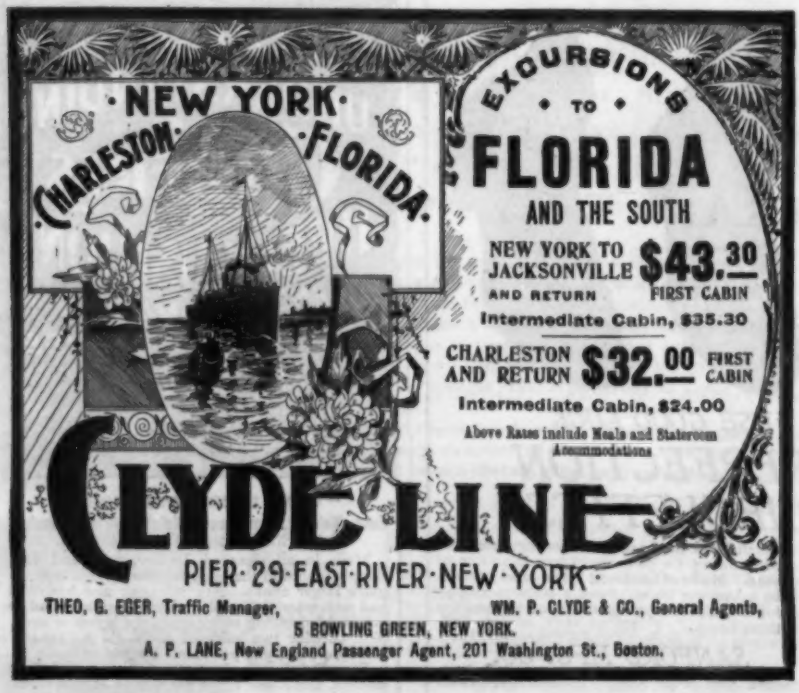
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22nd ANNUAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

1899

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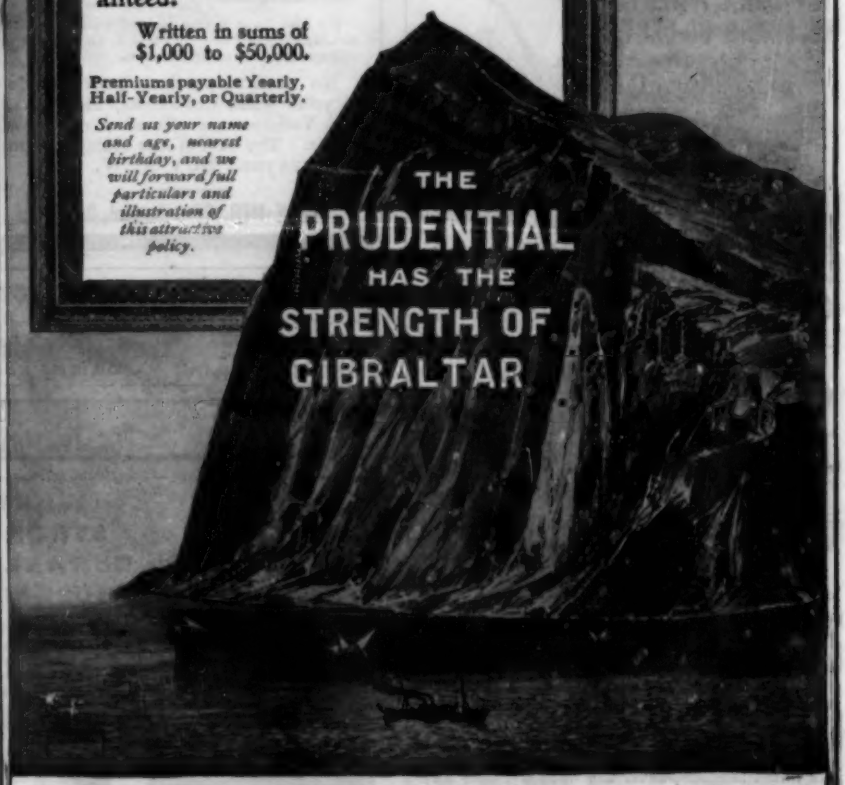

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